

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010

*Room 172
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601*

Starting at 8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Call to Order – Ms. Judie Woodhouse
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Approval of the Agenda
- E. Approval of the March 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- F. Correspondence/Articles

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Judie Woodhouse

- A. Elect Officers
- B. Committee Appointments
- C. Set Calendar
- D. Goal Setting
- Plan for Joint BPE/CSPAC Meeting

ITEM 2 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

- A. Board of Public Education Report

ITEM 3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Pete Donovan

- A. Meetings Attended
- B. NASDTEC Annual Conference Report
- C. Praxis Client Conference Report

ITEM 4 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Sharon Applegate and Mr. Jon Runnalls

- A. Licensure Hearing Process: Professional Practices – Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI

ITEM 5 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh

ITEM 6 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Judie Woodhouse and Ms. Patty Muir

ITEM 7 THE WRITING ASSESSMENT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Dr. Jan Clinard OCHE

ITEM 8 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI

ITEM 9 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

- A. MEA-MFT Educator Forum – October 8, 2010 – Helena, MT

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Review of By-laws
- B. Council of Deans Meeting

ITEM 11 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC

ADJOURN

***The CSPAC meeting will break when time permits to conduct the Class 8 Review Panel. The meeting will resume upon completion of the review.**

****Time certain, CSPAC will join the Board of Public Education for strategic planning in room 152 from 4-5 P.M.**

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010

Room 172
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 8:38 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of Education, MSU-Billings, Billings; and Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary for the Board of Public Education; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Bruce Messenger, MTDA; and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI.

Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved: to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Jon Runnalls. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved: to approve the January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Patty Muir. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Donovan spoke about a couple of documents of interest including an announcement for the ETS Praxis Client Conference, a letter from the Office Public Instruction inviting CSPAC to nominate a member for the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force, an article Ms. Bloom sent out from the New York Times entitled Building a Better Teacher, and an article from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind discussing the newly adopted Sign Language Interpreter Standards. OPI sponsored a MET-NET video conference for interpreters in January, and will sponsor another one in April. The conference is presented by Boys Town National Research Hospital.

INFORMATION ITEMS

***Items are in the order they were discussed at the meeting.**

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Douglas Reisig and Ms. Judie Woodhouse

The CSPAC By-laws were reviewed. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the term limits and pointed out one typo. The Council agreed the by-laws looked fine as presented. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Annual Report to prepare for the 2009 Annual Report. The new joint BPE July meetings dates were announced. Dr. Fishbaugh asked the term “higher education” be changed to “post-secondary

education". The Short Term Goals were then reviewed. Dr. Reisig presented 18 items of potential discussion. A few of the potential areas of discussion included: teacher retention studies; review and understand process of certificate/license denial, revocation, and suspension; and review how best to disseminate information to new teachers to help them understand where they are "in the bigger scheme of things". It was decided the goals would be reviewed again at the July 15, 2010 meeting. Dr. Reisig then gave a brief and concise summary of the meeting he, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Meloy attended the day prior at the Montana High School Association. The topic of discussion revolved around sports participation eligibility for high school students who take a number of courses online instead of in the school classroom. Mr. Meloy stated that MTHSA is open to working with other groups to develop a solution.

ITEM 2 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Peter Donovan

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he has attended since the January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan mentioned a recent radio announcement he heard from the Helena Education Foundation, a non-profit organization independent from the Helena School District that "works to increase private support for public education beyond that which is constitutionally mandated...". The ad praised the work Council Member Mr. Runnalls has done as an educator within the Helena schools. Mr. Donovan also stated Dr. Reisig was selected as the keynote speaker at the next NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute Conference, the title of this year's conference is "Doing More with Less". Mr. Donovan then spoke about work he has done with the Council of Deans, Board of Regents, and OPI. He has played an active role in the OPI School Staffing Project in helping determine staffing patterns and teacher shortages across the state.

Ms. Tonia Bloom arrived at 9:09 A.M.

ITEM 3 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

Mr. Meloy spoke about various meetings he has attended since January including a NASBE trip to Las Vegas to discuss the National Common Core Standards. Mr. Meloy traveled with Board Chair Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI. Both NASBE and CCSSO are strong advocates of these standards. K-College work with the school counselors continues. The group has looked at redefining their scopes, the affect, what they do and what they are perceived to do with access and affordability in schools. Shared policy goal work with the Legislative Interim Committee continues. The four K-12 Shared Policy Goals have been drafted, but have yet to be approved and include: 1) Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century global society; 2) Improve teaching and students learning by promotion data-driven policy decisions and increasing access to educational information; 3) Improve student achievement in struggling schools; and 4) Increase public awareness of and engagement in the K-12 educational system recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the state and local educational agencies and the legislature. The K-20 Shared Policy Goals have been drafted, but have yet to be approved and include: 1) Align high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college; 2) Increase College participation of Montana high school graduates; 3) Expand distance learning opportunities; and 4) Utilize K-20 data to improve student access and achievement. Dr. Fishbaugh brought up the fact that the first goal deals with remediation reduction and how cognitive development plays a large role in how prepared an individual student will be for college courses. The Council spoke about how much high school and college

assessments are aligned. Discussion continued around the Montana University Writing Assessment offered to all high school students.

**ITEM 4 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Ms. Tonia Bloom**

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the Council of Deans of Education presentation made to the Board of Regents about what each of the 9 teacher preparation programs in the state has to offer. It was concluded that teacher prep programs across the state are geared towards what the community and field experience has to offer in that region and each program is geared towards a slightly different mission. The Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress will hold an international educator forum in Ireland this summer where Dr. Fishbaugh will speak about Montana Indian Education for All.

Dr. Fishbaugh also spoke about a conference she did not attend, but Dr. Larry Baker from MSU Bozeman did, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting and Exhibits. Secretary of the Department of Education Mr. Arne Duncan spoke to the group, blasting teacher preparation programs based on what he had seen in large urban schools. Dr. Fishbaugh stated teacher prep programs are greatly scrutinized to ensure they are adhering to the highest standards. It was also noted Mr. Duncan was probably not taking into account the many alternative routes to licensure that do not abide by NCATE or TEAC standards. Discussion ensued over alternative routes, the current economic state's affect on the teaching field, and Mr. Duncan's conclusion.

**ITEM 5 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms.
Judie Woodhouse and Ms. Patty Muir**

Ms. Woodhouse reported she has been working with other states to attain model language for mentor standards and how these states proceeded in putting in mentoring language for standards. Ms. Muir will conduct a mentor workshop in Sydney, MT where they have 14 mentors for the upcoming school year. Dr. Fishbaugh added she has been in contact with Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI and Dr. Jayne Downey from MSU Bozeman about a mentor program they would like to offer at universities across the state to help prepare people for the Area of Permissive Specialized Competency for Mentor Teachers. They would like to include the MEA-MFT/OPI mentor workshop provided during the summer in this program.

**ITEM 6 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Sharon
Applegate and Mr. Jon Runnalls**

During the January 2010 Board of Public Education Meeting, the Board of Public Education heard an appeal from an applicant denied by the Office of Public Instruction because the applicant's academic record did not demonstrate meeting or exceeding the licensure requirements of Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 57, even though the applicant is licensed in another state. The Board requested a presentation for information on other denials and applicants who were licensed in another state yet did not meet Montana's requirements.

Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI felt this information would be just as important for the Council to hear as well. She presented an overview of academic denials and applicants from other states with

academic deficiencies for licensure. The OPI has denied seventy-four license applications since 2004. The top denials come from Texas. Twenty-three of these seventy-four were licensed in other states. Many of these denials are a result of the individual either not completing the NCATE accredited program, or they went through a non-NCATE accredited program that provided them a license in their respective states. Montana does not grant licenses to those who do not complete a program either accredited by NCATE or their state. Discussion ensued about which states have the highest demand for teachers and the various routes they offer for licensure both in these states and abroad.

ITEM 7 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI

Mr. Parman stood in for Dr. Vrooman Peterson to present the OPI Update. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan from OPI completed the 2009 Critical Teacher Shortage Report which revealed music teachers are the second most severe in shortages. Teacher prep students who wish to major in music must adhere to a rigorous academic schedule which causes many to abandon music and re-route their education into another area. To help increase the number of music teachers, both Mr. Parman and Dr. Vrooman Peterson are looking at ways to amend the requirements.

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI continues her work with P-20. The OPI has become very involved with both Facebook and iTunes University in hopes of reaching out to those who wouldn't necessarily visit their website. Ms. Quinlan is working on a longitudinal statewide data system that can be accessed by school districts, legislatures, and researchers. Turn Around or Transformation Schools are currently being identified in the state. Mr. Parman wants to ensure schools that don't belong on the list don't wind up on there. A School Improvement Grant from the Department of Education could bring up to \$12 million for school improvements in 6 districts across the state. Mr. Parman spoke a bit about Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 schools as describes by the Obama/Duncan Administration. OPI is looking at ways to reduce paperwork reporting for superintendents by treating elementary and secondary school districts as a single school system, as well as reviewing their reporting questions to see if there are any repetitive questions, questions that don't need to be asked, and to ensure the questions are being asked in a sufficient manner.

Chapter 55 work begins soon. Ms. Myers of the Board and Mr. Parman will co-chair the group. Superintendent Juneau asked for open nominations from each of the participating groups. Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC as a K-8 school teacher. The group will look more towards output over input standards from school districts, i.e. what are you doing, what goals have you set for yourself, are you accomplishing any of these?

ITEM 10 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

The NASDTEC Annual Conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN. Due to current fiscal situations, Mr. Donovan is unsure whether he'll be able to attend the conference.

ITEM 12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Warhank restated that the July meeting dates have been moved to July 14-15, 2010. The Joint BPE meeting will take place on the morning of July 15, 2010.

ITEM 8 MONTANA VIRTUAL ACADEMY OVERVIEW – Dr. Bruce Messenger Chair, MTDA

Dr. Bruce Messenger, Helena School District Superintendent and Chair to the Montana Digital Academy, came before the Council to speak after the Council raised a number of questions about the Academy at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Dr. Messenger stated that due to the fact an outside party had previously purchased the rights to the domain name Montana Virtual Academy, the group was forced to rename itself the Montana Digital Academy. The MTDA was created after the 2009 legislature authorized funds to help develop and implement the program. The MTDA established its headquarters in Missoula and hired Mr. Robert Curry as its director. Mr. Curry had previously led a virtual academy in Michigan. Course registration will begin during high school fall 2010 class registration this spring. With its fall 2010 launch date, the MTDA will have 30-40 courses led by a wide range of educators, all licensed professionals who should have their course align with Montana content standards. The first year will be free for school districts. Students, either public or home schooled, will need to register with their local public school district to enroll. All a course needs is for one student to enroll and can have up to 25 participants. At first the courses will be set up in the traditional manner, but this may change over time. Early student success and progress is hoped to be reported by the end of the first semester in January 2011. Dr. Messenger stated they hope to work closely with the MTHSA to help determine how the enrollment definition will affect student eligibility for sports participation. The Council had a few questions for Dr. Messenger including if students need to be on campus to take the courses, if MTDA needs to provide the legislature with benchmarks to show the progress the Academy is making, and who will grant the credit to the student.

ITEM 9 COMMON CORE STANDARDS OVERVIEW – Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI

This informational presentation included information concerning the following: 1) A regional conference conducted by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The team that represented Montana at this conference included Ms. Myers, Chair of the Board; Mr. Meloy, Executive Secretary to the Board; and Ms. Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent to OPI; and 2) The Montana Response to the February 9, 2010, draft of K-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.

Ms. Coopersmith provided an overview of the NASBE Western Regional Conference. It was clarified at the NASBE Western Regional Conference by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) that states must approve the entire Common Core Standards verbatim. States may choose to add 15 percent of their own material, but how that 15 percent would be measured remains an open question. The first official public draft of the National K-12 Common Core State Standards (note: this was incorrectly referred to as federally mandated in the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting highlights) was available for comment on March 10, 2010, and will be open for comment until April 2, 2010. The standards are expected to be finalized in early spring. For more information, visit www.corestandards.org. OPI has already gathered curriculum specialists in Helena to study how similar these are to the current state standards and develop a response to the proposed national ones. The Council inquired about the possibility of these standards dovetailing with Montana's, if other subjects aside from math and science will be subjected to national standards in the future, how this will affect Indian Education for All, and if Montana is at all involved with the development of these standards.

ITEM 11 POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Judie Woodhouse

Ms. Woodhouse made a special presentation to honor two Council members whose second terms both end this June, Ms. Tonia Bloom and Dr. Douglas Reisig. Ms. Woodhouse presented Ms. Bloom with an oversized thank you card filled with pictures of Council members, BPE staff, and other education partners. Mr. Donovan prepared a poem for her entitled *They Do It for Free* which he read aloud. Ms. Woodhouse then presented a PowerPoint she prepared for Dr. Reisig with the help of Mr. Donovan, who once again composed and read aloud a poem entitled *When Nice Guys Finish in First Place*. Both Ms. Bloom and Dr. Reisig thanked everyone they worked with over the years while serving on the Council. Dr. Reisig stated, "Disappointment is not something we experience on CSPAC." The Board of Public Education Office provided both Council members with gifts. Ms. Bloom received a box with her name, years served, and note of thank you engraved; Dr. Reisig received a gavel and block with his name, years served, and a note of thank you engraved.

ITEM 13 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC

There was no public comment.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 3:11 P.M.

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Board of Public Education

BOARD MEMBERS

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Patty Myers - Chair
Great Falls

Sharon Carroll - Vice Chair
Ekalaka

Erin Williams
Missoula

Cal Gilbert
Great Falls

Bernie Olson
Lakeside

John Edwards
Billings

Gisele Forrest
Missoula

Tim Seery, Student Rep.
Great Falls

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sheila Stearns, Ed.D.
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Denise Juneau,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Steve Meloy

Memo

To: Board of Public Education Partners
From: ~~Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary~~
Date: 6/7/2010
Re: Strategic Planning – Save the Date

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 4:00 PM

Join the Board of Public Education on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 from 4:00 – 5:00 PM to be part of the process to provide input during the BPE's Strategic Planning Session. The session will be in room #152 at the Montana State Capitol in Helena, MT. Please consider sending a representative if you are unable to attend. Visit the Board of Public Education's web site at www.bpe.mt.gov for the forthcoming agenda.

Missy Grinnell, *President*
Trisha Smith, *Vice President*
Sheryl Lute, *Secretary*
Tiffany Harding, *Treasurer*



3700 Lower River Rd • Great Falls, Montana 59405
www.montanarid.org

Cathy Copeland, *Conference Chair*
Shelley Garretson, *Media Chair*
Crystal Kramer, *Fundraising Chair*

TO: Office of Public Instruction
CC: Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
Educational Interpreter Workgroup Committee
RE: Proposal for an Educational Interpreter Outreach Advisor
FR: Montana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Date: March 9, 2010

Due to the pending Education Interpreter Standards, the Montana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID) is advocating for the Office of Public Instruction to consider creating a new position of an Educational Interpreter Outreach Advisor. We believe if OPI is proactive in establishing this position, the current Educational Interpreters in the state of Montana will feel more supported and successful as the standards go into effect. An Educational Interpreter Outreach Advisor will be able to provide direct support to any Educational Interpreter who falls below the standard by traveling to observe the educational interpreter “onsite”, help to analyze and develop a professional development plan, track required continuing education units, provide resources for training opportunities, etc. . This effort will strengthen the compliance of these standards between school districts and OPI. The greatest reason for advocating for this position is to ensure quality education of the students in Montana who are Deaf/hard of hearing.

MRID advocates that the duties of this position will include, but not be limited to:

- Guidance to Educational Interpreters in developing a Professional Development Plan based on the results of their Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). This will require that the Educational Interpreter Outreach Advisor have working knowledge of this assessment and how to apply the diagnostic feedback into an action plan.
- Ability to research, discover and disseminate professional resources that will support and encourage skill and knowledge development for Educational Interpreters.
- Strong interpersonal skills that will cultivate a safe working relationship between the Educational Interpreter and the Educational Interpreter Outreach Advisor.
- Promote working connections among interpreters in a regional area.
- Display professionalism, confidence, understanding and diplomacy when working with all school districts and OPI personnel.

MRID advocates that the qualifications to this position will include, but not be limited to:

- EIPA K-12 Certification
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certification (We advocate for both certifications) 1) someone who holds the EIPA K-12 Certification will gain a greater depth of understanding to the assessment and 2) RID Certification will provide a broader scope of interpreting and professionalism. RID Certification also ensures that the Outreach Interpreter is an active member of RID and holds the most “up to date” information in the field of interpreting.
- BA/BS degree in a comparable field
- 5 years of experience working in the Educational Interpreting field.
- Is a graduate of the Master Mentor program or other related program. This ensures the Outreach Interpreter is skilled and

CSPAC Committee Responsibilities And Assignments

(as of March 11th, 2010)

Pre-Professional Preparation and Continuing Development:

Professional development, continuing education, mentoring, teacher testing, ESEA (NCLB, HQT), outcome assessment, PEPPS (chapter 58), Title II, online degrees and coursework, NCATE.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee:

Chapter 57, paraprofessionals.

Montana Commission on Teaching:

Mentoring, teacher testing.

Pre-Professional Preparation and Continuing Development

- Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh

Licensure and Endorsement Committee

- Jon Runnalls
- Sharon Applegate

Montana Commission on Teaching

- Patty Muir
- Judie Woodhouse

Executive Committee

- Judie Woodhouse

2009-2010 CSPAC Meeting Calendar

October 8-9, 2009	(Joint CoD on 8th) U of M	Missoula
January 14, 2010	State Capitol	Helena
March 10, 2010	State Capitol	Helena
July 14-15, 2010	(Joint BPE on 15th)	Helena

2010-2011 Proposed CSPAC Meeting Calendar

October 2010	U of M - To coincide with CoD meeting	Missoula
January 12th or 13th, 2011	TBD	Helena
March 9th or 10th, 2011	TBD	Helena
July 13-14, 2011	(Joint BPE on 14th) TBD	Helena

Draft CSPAC Goals – 2010-2011

- 1) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
 - a. Participate in NCATE/Montana accreditation reviews.
 - b. Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards update recommended to BPE by CSPAC on a 5-year review cycle. (A comprehensive update of PEPPS is due to be completed in 2011).
 - c. Continue to work with OPI to encourage the implementation of mentor programs across Montana to facilitate the induction of beginning teachers into the profession of teaching.
- 2) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the areas of precertification training and educational requirements and in certification renewal requirements and procedures.
 - a. Continue to work with BPE, MSDB and OPI to identify education resources to assist in the preparation of educators and support staff that serve students with visual and hearing impairments.
 - b. Review of Chapter 57 (A comprehensive update of Chapter 57 is due to be completed in 2013).
 - c. As funding permits, attend the following conferences: Western States Certification, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, and National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.
 - d. Meet annually with the Board of Public Education and with the Council of Deans of Postsecondary Education.
 - e. CSPAC representation to serve on the planning committee for the Montana Educator Forum.
- 3) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' certificates and the appeals process.
 - a. As funding permits, attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
 - b. Work with OPI Licensure staff on appeals of licensure denial cases.
- 4) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
 - a. Work with OPI to develop a framework for professional development based on best practices.
 - b. As funding permits, attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
 - c. Annual review of the Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics.

- d. CSPAC will study the process utilized in Montana for reviewing cases of suspension, revocation and denial of educator licensure.
- 5) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.
 - a. Complete semi-annual reviews of Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Post Secondary Faculty License applications.
 - b. Attend Western States Certification Conference.
 - c. Gather information about diploma mills.
 - d. Continue the awareness that issues such as distance learning, dual enrollment, alternative certification models, etc. are multi-faceted and inter-related concepts that cannot be viewed in isolation from one another, especially in light of NCLB and high school renewal efforts.

Other CSPAC Activities:

CSPAC member, Sharon Applegate, to serve on the Chapter 55 Task Force to review Montana's school accreditation standards.

CSPAC to monitor any teacher licensure issues that may emerge from the implementation of distance learning programs (Montana Virtual Academy).

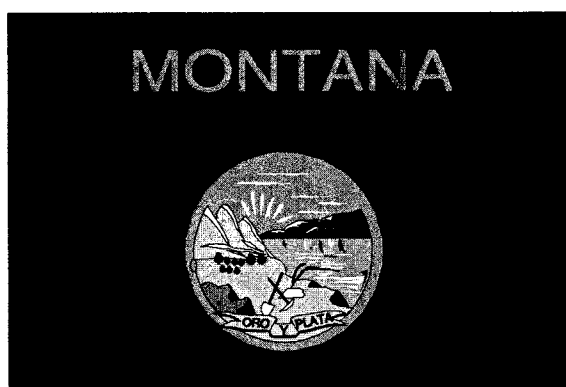
CSPAC to participate in the School Staffing Project to develop a new state data system to track school staffing patterns in Montana.

Solicit input from the Board of Public Education regarding research priorities for CSPAC for 2010-2011.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTANA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL



TO THE

MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

July 15, 2010

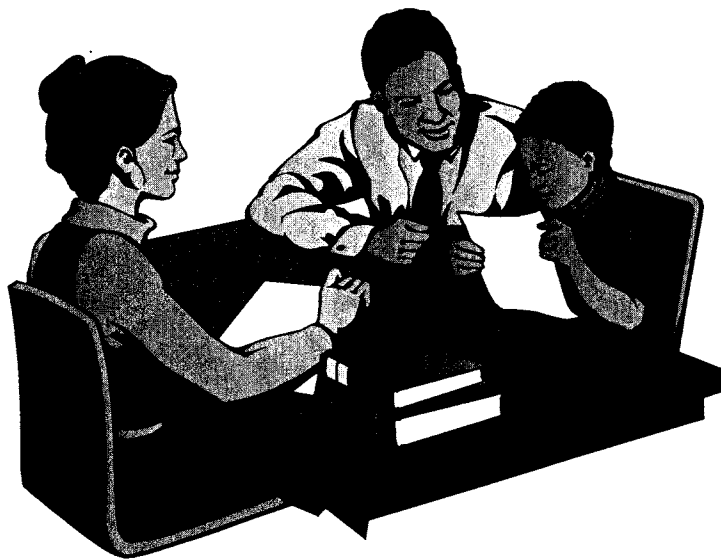
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Mission Statement.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Certification Advisory Council 2009 Membership.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>CSPAC Goals and Strategies for 2009.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Highlights of 2009-2010 CSPAC Meetings</i>	<i>7</i>

Mission Statement

The mission of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council is to study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will submit a report to the Board of Public Education with recommendations for the above areas at least once annually.



Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Preamble

Education in Montana is a public endeavor. Every Montanan has a responsibility for the schooling of our young people, and the state has charged professional educators with the primary responsibility of providing a breadth and depth of educational opportunities.

The professional conduct of every educator affects attitudes toward the profession and toward education. Aware of the importance of maintaining the confidence of students, parents, colleagues and the public, Montana educators strive to sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct. While the freedom to learn and the freedom to teach are essential to education in a democracy, educators in Montana balance these freedoms with their own adherence to this ethical code.

The Professional Educator in Montana:

Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.

- Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical, or illegal practice of any person.
- Provides educational services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the student.
- Safeguards the student's right to privacy by judiciously protecting information of a confidential nature.

Fulfills professional responsibilities with diligence and integrity.

- Enhances individual competence by increasing knowledge and skills.
- Exemplifies and fosters a philosophy of education which encourages a lifelong pursuit of learning.
- Contributes to the development and articulation of the profession's body of knowledge.
- Promotes professionalism by respecting the privacy and dignity of colleagues.
- Demands that conditions of employment are conducive to high-quality education.

Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.

- Respects the individual roles, rights, and responsibilities of the community; including parents, trustees, and colleagues.
- Assumes responsibility for individual actions.
- Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.

**MONTANA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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2009 MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair

Missoula
School Administrator

Judie Woodhouse, Vice-Chair

Polson
Secondary Teacher

Sharon Applegate

Kalispell
Elementary Teacher

Mary Susan Fishbaugh

Billings
Post Secondary
Education

Tonia Bloom

Corvallis
School Trustee

Patty Muir

Laurel
Reading Specialist

Jon Runnalls

East Helena
Elementary Teacher

CSPAC Staff:

Peter Donovan
E-mail: pdonovan@mt.gov

Administrative Officer

Anneliese Warhank
E-mail: awarhank@mt.gov

CSPAC Administrative
Assistant

CSPAC Goals for 2009-2010

- 1) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
- 2) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the areas of pre-certification training and educational requirements and in certification renewal requirements and procedures.
- 3) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' certificates and the appeals process.
- 4) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
- 5) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009-2010 **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND** **PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL** **MEETINGS**

Highlights of the January 15, 2009 **CSPAC Meeting**

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on January 15, 2009 at the Front Street Learning Center in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Bonnie Graham, MSU-Billings; Ms. Tracy Grazley, U of M Western; Ms. Kim Warrick, OPI; Mr. Larry Nielson, MEA-MFT; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Mr. Mike Miller, U of M Western.

Executive Committee

The Council reviewed last year's CSPAC Annual Report and discussed updates to be completed before presenting the 2008 Annual Report to the joint meeting with BPE in March. The Council then reviewed the short term goals and how they could achieve them. The highlights for the Interpreter's Standards Workgroup Meeting were reviewed and discussed.

No Child Left Behind Update

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction for OPI, came before the Council to update them on the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB states that an educator who is licensed and endorsed in the areas they teach are considered Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). One of the goals of NCLB is to have 100% HQT in every school. The council inquired about the status reports submitted by the school districts and what to do if a teacher does not qualify for HQT.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan provided CSPAC with a summary of meetings he has attended since the October 2008 CSPAC meeting. The Class 3 portion of Chapter 57 was discussed; Chapter 57 will have its hearing on February 24, 2009. He also spoke about the meeting he and Mr. Meloy had with the Legislative Audit Division concerning dual enrollment and the upcoming audit. The proposed language approved at the October 2008 meeting was stricken from the CSPAC Bylaws due to incorrect information. The Council then approved language extending term limits as elected officials on the Council from two years to six.

Western States Certification Conference Report

Dr. Reisig displayed his PowerPoint that he presented a week prior at the Western States Certification Conference in Austin, TX. The PowerPoint concentrated on offering a fair and equal opportunity to students from all economic backgrounds. Ms. Keller and Ms. Graham spoke about their experiences at the conference.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about his appearance before the House and Senate Education Committee on January 14, 2009 to speak about the Board of Public Education. He spoke about bills currently being presented before House and Senate committees that, if passed, would directly affect BPE. These included SJ 8, SB 80, SB 81, and SB 67.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the MSU-Billings College of Education Consortium. At the Consortium, David Langford presented the *Quality Learning System*. This is a management theory that deals with classroom organization and getting students more involved in classroom development. Dr. Fishbaugh expressed interest in having CSPAC study his work further.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Keller, Dr. Peterson, and Mr. Donovan spoke to the Council about Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary Faculty License Application process.

OPI Update

Dr. Peterson spoke about the recent transition to Ms. Denise Juneau, the current Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state. Mr. Dennis Parman was chosen and Deputy Superintendent and will take office in July. Until then, Mr. Bob Runkle will be the acting Deputy Superintendent. She listed a

few issues OPI is working on including special ed teacher shortages in high school, and class 5 alternative teacher licensing tests.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Burrenson and Ms. Woodhouse passed out a survey they would like to distribute to schools that have participated in the Montana Mentoring Institute sponsored by OPI to gather information on how schools are implementing teacher mentoring programs. Ms. Sandve offered to work with the committee to distribute the surveys and requested she add a few questions of her own to help with a grant she is working at attaining. Ms. Sandve also spoke about how instead of the Mentor Institute, a mentor training program will be offered this summer in Helena. The Council approved a motion to recommend to the BPE the addition of teacher mentoring to Areas of Permissive Special Competency, ARM 10.58.527(7).

Future Agenda Items

The future agenda items, including planning for the joint Board of Public Education meeting, were reviewed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Highlights of the March 11, 2009 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on March 11-12, 2009 at the Front Street Learning Center in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Melodee Smith-Burrenson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Tracy Grazley, U of M Western; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Mandy Smoker Broadus, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI.

Executive Committee

Dr. Reisig informed the Council that the Board of Public Education is now an Educator License Renewal Unit Provider. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council Annual Report to be presented at the Joint CSPAC/BPE meeting and agreed to present the report as is. The highlights from the January Interpreters' Standards Workgroup meeting were provided. Finally, Dr. Reisig presented a PowerPoint to honor Ms. Burrenson.

Indian Education Report

Ms. Smoker Broaddus came to the Council to speak about American Indian student achievement in Montana, and ways OPI is working to improve the achievements of American Indian. OPI conducted a study to gather information on American Indian Education in Montana. Ms. Broadus presented various result from the study, including information on enrollment, Adequate Yearly Progress Report, and Reading First data among other things. She also gave an overview of the programs being implemented in schools to aid with American Indian student achievement such as Indian Leadership Education and Development.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan handed out a list of the meetings he had attended since the January CSPAC meeting and briefly spoke about a few. He presented the executive summary of the study *An Evaluation of Teachers Trained Through Different Routes to Certification*. The Council then discussed alternative routes to certification and the results of the study.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh was absent from the meeting. Ms. Bloom informed the Council the committee was ongoing in their analysis.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Woodhouse led the Council through the language that would be presented at the following days CSPAC/BPE meeting as an information item for the Board. Ms. Sandve presented the updated version of the survey developed by Ms. Burreson, Ms. Woodhouse, and herself. Dr. Reisig requested Ms. Sandve come before the Council at the July meeting to present the results of the survey.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Keller informed the Council that Item 8, the OPI Update, would be presented at the OPI Licensure Office following the close of the meeting. The Chapter 57 rules would be presented for final approval at the BPE meeting on Friday, March 13th. The only issue still concerning people about the rule concerns superintendents and the time they should be given to attain credits in Montana School Law and Finance.

Plan for Future Conferences

Mr. Donovan addressed the Council about BPE's financial strains and the cut back on out-of-state trips the Board must make. The Council understood and told Mr. Donovan if it was possible, they would still like him to attend the NASDTEC Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled from May 31st – June 3, 2009, in Jacksonville, FL.

Future Agenda Items

A new Council member will be selected by the Board at their May meeting and will be in attendance at the July 2009 CSPAC meeting. Ms. Woodhouse's first three year term will expire in June. The annual calendar and new goals will be written at the July meeting as well.

Public Comment

Ms. Keller gave a brief overview of the previous day's Class 8 Application Approval meeting for those Council members who could not attend.

OPI Update

Ms. Keller presented a PowerPoint entitled, “Why the Licensure Office is so Cranky”. The PowerPoint described the duties the Licensure Office of OPI must deal with on a daily basis.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Mr. Meloy gave a brief overview of the bills of interest to the Board including:

- HB 15 – Fund K-12 Education
- HB 645 – Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and recovery funds
- SB 80 & 81 – Elect Board of Regents and Board of Public Education members
- SB 67 – Require funding before school rules with fiscal impact implemented

Highlights of the July 23, 2009 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on July 23, 2009 at the MEA-MFT Conference Room in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, Helena.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Mr. Mike Miller, U of M Western; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Deena Miller, Write/Right 2 Read Program; Mr. Dan Villa, Governor’s Office.

Executive Committee

The meeting began with the election of officers. Dr. Reisig was reappointed as Chairman. Ms. Judie Woodhouse was appointed as Vice Chairwoman. Committee appointments followed. Ms. Patty Muir was moved to the Montana Commission on Teaching Committee. Mr. Jon Runnalls took the open spot on the Licensure and Endorsement Committee. All other Council members remained on the committee they previously served. The annual calendar was then set followed by the goals for the 2009-2010 year. The Council requested someone from OPI to speak to them about the P-20 efforts. On the 22nd of July the Council reviewed a new batch of applications for the Class 8 Educator License. Ms. Keller came to speak about the proposed language to modify the Class 8 to allow for educators whose area study does not tie into any existing academic areas in the K-12 environment the opportunity to be licensed. The Council voted to approve the intent to adjust the Class 8 Dual Credit Only Post Secondary Faculty License. The Sign Language Interpreter Standards were adopted for notice of public hearing at the Board of Public Education meeting on July 17, 2009. A hearing date of September 3, 2009 has been set.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy gave an overview of the work BPE had accomplished since the joint BPE/CSPAC meeting in March. Some of the topics he covered included: the development of the Montana Virtual Academy, including the selection process of the Governing Board; and the proposed National Standards Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan covered the meetings he has attended since the last CSPAC meeting. He spoke about the NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute, and Ms. Keller's appointment as chair of the Interstate Agreement Committee. The Council also discussed the shortage of instructors of Braille and sign language interpreters in the state and the possibility of looking into how we can lessen the shortage.

Introduction of Dan Villa, Governor's Education Policy Advisor

Mr. Villa came to speak to the Council as the newly appointed Education Policy Advisor to Governor Schweitzer. Mr. Villa spoke to the Council about various issues including the Montana University System's request for a tuition increase, the debate around the necessity of NCATE as an accrediting body to the state teacher preparation programs, and "Turn Around Schools".

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Woodhouse spoke about Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI, and her work on the mentoring survey. The surveys will be distributed at the beginning of the school year in August. Mr. Reisig inquired about the Board's stance on the proposed sign language interpreter standards. The Board supports them but there is some concern about how available the resources to become certified will be to people across the state.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Ms. Deena Miller from the Write/Right 2 Read Program came to speak about the program and her desire to develop a professional certification/endorsement through the series of classes. The program currently consists of workshops that aim to make more sense of the English language. The Council, as well as members of the audience, offered Ms. Miller many suggestions as to how and who she should talk to for looking into developing this program at the collegiate level.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Elizabeth Keller came to give an update on the Chapter 57 revisions. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the Montana Virtual Academy. Mr. Ferro stepped forward to talk about the recent developments, the financial setbacks, and the history of the Academy and MSELCL.

OPI Update

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI came before the Council to explain the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The standards are being proposed for math and language arts, at this point 46 states have agreed to participate in the development. Discussion ensued over the development process and the concerns people have for the Initiative.

Plan for Future Conferences

The NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute will be taking place October 14-16, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM. The Western States Certification Conference is January 6-8, 2010 in San Diego, CA. Dr. Reisig plans on attending this conference.

Future Agenda Items

The Council will review its by-laws and meet with the Montana Council of Deans of Education at its October 8-9, 2009 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

***Highlights of the October 8 & 9, 2009
CSPAC and Joint Council of Deans Meeting***

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on October 8-9, 2009, at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. On the afternoon of October 8, 2009, the CSPAC met jointly with the Montana Council of Deans of Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Larry Baker, MSU-Bozeman; Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Dr. Roberta Evans, UM-Missoula; Ms. Cindy Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Ms. Joanne Erickson, MSU-Bozeman; Ms. Tricia Parrish, UM-Missoula; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Jan Clinard, OCHE; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Dr. Delena Norris-Tull, UM-Western; Ms. Kristy Murphy, UM-Missoula; Ms. Pamela Wilson, MSU-Northern; Ms. Lynn Hinch, OPI; Ms. Michael Munson-Lenz, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

**Joint CSPAC/Council of Deans Meeting
October 8, 2009**

Dr. Reisig updated the Council of Deans on the projects CSPAC have completed, as well as those they are either planning on, or would like to work on in the near future. Other topics discussed included the following: An update of the proposed changes concerning the Class 8 Professional Educator Licensure to Chapter 57 of the administrative Rules of Montana; a School Staffing Module update; changes being made to the Higher Education Opportunity Act Title II State Report Card; a follow-up to the NCATE Western Regional Accreditation Orientation; the proposed draft of the Highly Qualified Teacher's Plan; and an update on the Accreditation On-Site Review Schedule. Finally Ms. Lynn Hinch and Ms. Michael Munson-Lenz spoke before the Councils about what the Indian Education for All division at OPI had done with the development and implementation of the Building Worldviews using Traditional Cultures & Google Earth in public schools across the state.

CSPAC Meeting October 9, 2009

Executive Committee

Dr. Douglas Reisig recapped the Joint CSPAC and Council of Deans meeting. Dr. Reisig then conducted the annual review of the CSPAC bylaws.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan provided CSPAC with a summary of meetings he has attended since the July CSPAC meeting and with an update on his activities with NASDTEC. Mr. Steve Meloy spoke briefly on the Montana Virtual Academy Governing Board and the members selected by the Board. Mr. Donovan provided the rule as adopted for Sign Language Interpreters in public schools.

Board of Public Education Report

Mr. Steve Meloy spoke to the Council about the Common Core Standards and Race to the Top funds. The comment period for the public to voice their opinion directly to the Council for Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association closes October 21, 2009. He finished by mentioning the question of privacy in a teacher licensure revocation, surrender, or denial case, as well as the current budget situation faced by the BPE office.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh spoke about MSU-Billings' preparation for Joint NCATE/State Accreditation Review and her trip to Las Vegas with OPI for NCATE training. She will be a part of the MSU-Northern review in November. The next Post-Secondary Consortium will take place in November and should be attended by Ms. Tonia Bloom.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Judie Woodhouse turned the floor over to Ms. Nikki Sandvi who came from OPI to provide the Mentoring Update. Ms. Sandve spoke about the recent Train the Teacher Mentor Institute, the second mentor survey emailed to schools across the state, and past and future Mentor Institutes.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Mr. Donovan informed the Council the changes to Chapter 57 concerning Class 8 will go up before the Board for approval at its November. Those applicants who were put on hold for a Class 8 license will be reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval should the Class 8 rules be adopted. Ms. Elizabeth Keller spoke next about the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to provide a mechanism to inform the Membership and the public of jurisdiction-specific requirements for educator licensure in each Member Jurisdiction.

Presentation of the Confucius Institute of the University of Montana

The Honorable Bob Brown came before the Council to speak about his journey to and involvement in the Institute, located inside the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana-Missoula. He also discussed the professor's involved in the program that work to teach Mandarin Chinese via the internet to school children across the state.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Item six was returned to as the last portion had not been covered. Mr. Donovan spoke about the possibility of creating areas of permissive specialized competency for instructors of Braille and sign language interpreters.

OPI Update

Dr. Linda Peterson showed the Council exactly where on the OPI website, opi.mt.gov, to go for reporting HQT. Dr. Peterson also showed and spoke about information for HOUSSE.

Plan for Future Conferences

Due to financial constraints, future conference attendance has been put on hold.

Future Agenda Items

The Council will draft the CSPAC Annual Report and review the Code of Ethics at its January 14, 2010 meeting in Helena.

OPI Strategic Directions and P-20 Update

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne was unable to attend the meeting due to treacherous road conditions between Helena and Missoula.

Public Comment

Dr. Reisig thanked Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman. Dr. Jan Clinard and Mr. Marco Ferro expressed thanks to the Council for a delightful meeting.

Highlights of the January 14, 2010 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on January 14, 2010 at the Montana State Capitol in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Ms. Joyce Silverthorne, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

Correspondence

Mr. Donovan presented the Council with an article discussing the newly created Montana Virtual Academy and the hiring of its new director, Mr. Robert Currie. A lengthy discussion ensued over what the qualifications of the instructor should be, where the student will be receiving instruction (at a public school, in their own home etc.), and how to assure the student is really the one taking the course,

amongst other questions. The Council requested someone from the Office of Public Instruction come speak to them more about the MTVA at its March meeting. The Council then spoke about the American Federation of Teachers', a 1.4 million-member union, proposal to tie student test scores to teacher evaluations. This would possibly be tied into Race to the Top funds being distributed by the federal government to public schools who are adhering to common core standards the government has developed. Discussion ensued over the evaluations and the Council requested someone from OPI come speak to them at a future meeting about the Common Core Standards.

Executive Committee

Dr. Reisig suggested that when drafting the 2009 CSPAC Annual Report the Council align their long term goals with the Board of Public Education's 2008-2013 Mission Statement. A few of the short term goals were discussed and it was decided these would be reviewed again at the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan informed the Council of the change with the Board's schedule. With the change the joint meeting of CSPAC and BPE is being moved from March 11, 2010 to the week of July 12-16, 2010.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he had attended since the October 2009 CSPAC meeting. One meeting he spoke about was the School Staffing Project. This project is working on a database that will provide OPI with information about educators teaching in schools across the state in a straightforward, condensed style. Mr. Donovan also spoke about the move from paper agendas to electronic agendas.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI came to give the Mentoring Update. Ms. Sandve passed out the results of the 2009 survey sent to schools across the state asking questions about the mentoring programs. Ms. Sandve pointed out some of the trends and spoke about some of the steps she would like to take to possibly make programs institutionalized.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about Mr. Storrs Bishop retiring from the Board after 16 years of service. Mr. Meloy also spoke about the Montana Virtual Academy and if home school enrollment in online courses will affect high school's sports eligibility. Mr. Meloy discussed other topics the Board is dealing with at the moment including SB 152, NASBE, Common Core Standards, and the agency's budget.

OPI Strategic Direction and P-20 Update

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI came to speak to the Council about OPI's Strategic Direction and P-20. Ms. Silverthorne has begun work with other employees of OPI from various departments to help improve schools from pre-school through post graduate education. Their first priority is to focus on the entry to and exit from K-12 education. After the first year's focus of entry and exit, "...the P-20 Achievement will continue to focus on the topics that improve OPI collaboration across Montana and reduce barriers for the students of Montana."

OPI Update

Dr. Linda Peterson spoke about various projects currently being worked on at OPI. One major project in Dr. Peterson's department is counseling where an initiative between the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, and BPE has been created to help create a comprehensive counseling program in Montana schools. Dr. Peterson also spoke about the Board approval to begin the review process of Chapter 55.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Both Dr. Reisig and Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI attended the Western States Certification Conference in San Diego, CA at the beginning of January. Dr. Reisig made a presentation about teaching practices, and Ms. Keller presented as head of the Interstate Agreement Committee.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh passed out information about sign language interpreter training programs as well as an example of a program curriculum. The Council spoke about the need and the possible setting (i.e. university, community college, technical) for one of these programs in the state.

Future Agenda Items

Since the joint BPE meeting has been postponed until July, the Council will draft up the Annual Report at the March meeting.

Western States Certification Conference Report

Dr. Reisig presented the PowerPoint he presented a week prior at the WSCC in San Diego, CA. The presentation was entitled "Accountability: Personal & Professional". The presentation spoke about the way educators view their pupils and how effective communication can have a positive impact on a child's education.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Highlights of the March 10, 2010 **CSPAC Meeting**

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on March 10, 2010 at the Montana State Capitol in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Bruce Messenger, MTVA; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

Correspondence

Mr. Donovan discussed a couple documents including an announcement for the ETS Praxis Client Conference, a letter from the Office Public Instruction inviting CSPAC to nominate a member for the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force (Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC), an article Ms. Bloom sent out from the New York Times entitled Building a Better Teacher, and an article from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind discussing the newly adopted Sign Language Interpreter Standards.

Executive Committee

The CSPAC By-laws were reviewed. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the term limits. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Annual Report to prepare for the 2009 Annual Report. Dr. Fishbaugh asked the term “higher education” be changed to “post-secondary education”. The Short Term Goals were then reviewed. Dr. Reisig presented 18 items of potential discussion and it was decided the goals would be reviewed again at the July 2010 meeting. Dr. Reisig then gave a brief and concise summary of the meeting he, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Meloy attended the day prior at the Montana High School Association.

Administrative Officer’s Report

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he has attended since the January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan also mentioned a recent radio advertisement from the Helena Education Foundation praising Council member Mr. Runnalls for his work as a local educator. Mr. Donovan also stated Dr. Reisig was selected as the keynote speaker at the next NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute Conference, the title of this year’s conference is “Doing More with Less”. Mr. Donovan also spoke about work he has done with the Council of Deans, Board of Regents, and OPI. He has played an active role in the OPI School Staffing Project.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about various meetings he has attended since January including a NASBE trip to Las Vegas to discuss the federal Common Core Standards. Mr. Meloy traveled with Board Chair Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI. Mr. Meloy spoke about the standards and the concerns many in Montana have about them. Mr. Meloy then spoke about other projects he and the Board are involved in including the K-College Workgroups work with school counselor, the Montana Virtual (Digital) Academy, and the Montana University System Writing Assessment.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the Council of Deans of Education presentation made to the Board of Regents about which each of the 9 teacher preparation programs in the state has to offer, an international educator forum in Ireland where she plans to speak about Indian Ed for All, and a speech made by the Secretary of Department of Education Mr. Arne Duncan at an American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education conference where he blasted teacher preparation programs based on what he had seen in large urban schools.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Woodhouse reported she has been working with other states to attain model language for mentor standards. Ms. Muir will conduct a mentor workshop in Sydney, MT where they have 14 mentors for the upcoming school year. Dr. Fishbaugh added she has been in contact with Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI and Dr. Jayne Downey from MSU Bozeman about mentor courses they would like to add to universities across the state to help prepare people for an Area of Permissive Specialized Competency for Mentor Teachers.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI presented to the Council an overview of academic denials and applicants from other states with academic deficiencies for licensure. The OPI has denied 74 license applications since 2004. Many of these denials are a result of the individual either not completing an NCATE accredited program, or they went through a non NCATE accredited program that provided them a license in their respective states. Montana does not grant licenses to those who do not complete a program either accredited by NCATE or their state.

OPI Update

Mr. Parman stood in for Dr. Peterson to present the OPI Update. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan from OPI completed the 2009 Critical Teacher Shortage Report which revealed music teachers are the second most severe in shortages. To help increase the number of music teachers, both Mr. Parman and Dr. Peterson are looking at ways to amend the requirements. Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI continues her work with P-20. The OPI has become very involved with both Facebook and iTunes University in hopes of reaching out to those who wouldn't necessarily visit their website. Chapter 55 work begins soon. Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC as a K-8 school teacher.

Plan for Future Conferences

The NASDTEC Annual Conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN. Due to current fiscal situations, Mr. Donovan is unsure whether he'll be able to attend the conference.

Future Agenda Items

Ms. Warhank restated that the July meeting dates have been moved to July 14-15, 2010. The Joint BPE meeting will take place on the morning of July 15, 2010.

Montana Virtual Academy Overview

Dr. Bruce Messenger, Helena School District Superintendent and chair to the Montana Digital Academy, came before the Council to speak after the Council raised a number of questions about the Academy at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Dr. Messenger stated that due to the fact an outside party had previously purchased the rights to the domain name Montana Virtual Academy, the group was forced to rename itself the Montana Digital Academy. Dr. Messenger spoke about MTDA's creation, the hiring of Robert Curry as its director, the planned launch date of online course delivery, and the number of courses amongst other facts. The Council had a few questions for Dr. Messenger including if students need to be on campus to take the courses, if MTDA need to provide the Legislature with benchmarks to show the progress the Academy is making, and who will grant the credit to the student.

Common Core Standards Overview

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI came to speak to the Council about the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. The Council requested more information about Common Core at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Ms. Coopersmith spoke about the regional NASBE conference she attended with Mr. Meloy and Ms. Myers, as well as Montana's response to the February 9, 2010 draft of K-12 standards. The OPI is following the draft national standards very closely to see how similar they are to current Montana standards. Between now and April 2, 2010, the public can view draft standards online and make comment. The Council asked a few questions about these and possible standards development in other school subjects, they also questioned federal funding, Race to the Top, and teacher prep costs.

Point of Personal Privilege

Ms. Woodhouse made a special presentation to honor two Council members whose second terms both end this June. Ms. Woodhouse presented Ms. Bloom with an oversized thank you card filled with pictures of Council members, BPE staff, and other education partners the Council works with. Mr. Donovan prepared a poem for her entitled *They Do it for Free* and read it to everyone. Ms. Woodhouse then presented a PowerPoint she prepared for Dr. Reisig with the help of Mr. Donovan who once again composed and read out loud a poem entitled *When Nice Guys Finish in First Place*. Both Ms. Bloom and Dr. Reisig thanked everyone they worked with over the years while serving on the Council. Both individuals also received gifts from the Board as a token of its appreciation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Secretary's Report

Thursday, July 15, 2010

By: Steve Meloy/Executive Secretary

We have now reached the point of OPI performing an alignment study between the Common Core document and the mathematics and language arts standards. This task needs to be completed before the Superintendent makes her decision to recommend (one way or the other) to the BPE. Some states have adopted Common Core, however many are still holding off for a variety of reasons. To date the states of Kentucky, Hawaii, Maryland, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and North Carolina have adopted. Race to the Top (RTTT) continues to have an elevated level of importance as we have met the deadline for the application for federal stimulus dollars and await the results as well as potential future tie-in with the reauthorization of ESEA. This in the face of a projected 400M shortfall in general fund revenue for the coming biennium. We have participated in a number of state and national meetings to discuss these issues and the role of the Board of Public Education with the same. I recently attended a meeting of the NASBE Board of Directors where they restated their support of the Common Core as well as continued support for any additional federal dollars to the states.

The work of the Chapter 55 Task Force is off and running with a near perfect attendance at our first meeting on April 16. The meeting was co-chaired by Patty and Dennis Parman. It was introductory in nature with the handing out of some homework assignments for the next meeting to be held over two days in June. The next meeting was held on June 18th. There was some discussion about the task ahead and areas which should be considered outside the scope of work of the task force.

Sharon represented the Board on a NASBE established Task Force on Rural and Frontier Issues. A definition of "rural" would certainly help in federal interventions and assistance for turnaround and low performing schools in states.

The work of the Montana Digital Learning Academy is well underway and it is our expectation that this project will address a myriad of questions regarding on-line learning as it relates to our standards. Bob Currie is a representative to our Chapter 55 work and he has assured us that he will examine the connectivity of his work and the Board's policy work as he proceeds. The academy hopes to have offerings ready by this fall. There have been news articles about the class offerings around the state and interest is rising. Bob has appeared on Montana Public Radio.

I have met with the Interim Committee on Education and Local Government on the implementation of HJR 4 and HJR 6 of the 2009 Legislative Session which calls for shared goals among the OPI, the BPE and the Interim Committee. In partnership with OPI and OCHE we have created a set of goals for both K-12 and K-20 which were initially reviewed by the Interim Committee on March 11, 2010. We finalized the document and made it ready for signatures. There is currently some discussion to consider the signatures as non-binding and affixed only to memorialize that the body of

work has been done in the creation of shared goals. This is in line with my oft stated position that we will be accountable to the plan but not specifically to the legislature.

I continue to work with the LFD and the OPI to refine a process to deal with the reporting requirements associated with the law that requires the BPE to have its rules analyzed for fiscal impact on school districts and have discussed both of these projects at length with the Interim Committee. The auditors will look into the inefficiencies for the BPE in this 2005 fiscal reporting law. We have on file a letter of concern that the Board has over an assertion made by an attorney for the ELG regarding the Board's adherence to existing law. On June 14th I appeared before the LFC subcommittee and presented information showing improvement in schools who previously did not meet full accreditation.

We continue to work on the implementation of the new Class 8 license. CSPAC continues to review applications and approved thirty-nine applicants at a meeting held on the July 22, 2009. CSPAC will review more applications at its July 2010 meeting. To date, OPI has issued 42 Class 8 licenses. For purposes of enhancement the Board of Public Education adopted an amendment to the Class 8 rule in November that allows for greater flexibility for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to award Class 8 licensure to individuals who have rich academic preparation in areas that we do not currently offer as endorsements on standard Montana teacher licenses. We continue our strategic planning work formulated in July and continue to work on measurements for the coming year. I have made sure that our strategic planning goals with the Education and Local Government match up nicely with our strategic plan as well as the policy goals of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Learning First Alliance continues to explore the idea of a common group leadership in the area of early childhood educational development, which will consider learning from birth through age three. The alliance adopted bylaws at its meeting in October and is looking for members to pay \$200.00 in dues. We have not signed on as an official member but Pete and I continue to monitor the work of the group by attending each meeting.

We continue to be engaged in work to address the teacher shortage at MSDB. CSPAC will be involved with this issue and is considering an area of specialized competency for teaching of sensory impaired children.

We are currently working with the Legislative Auditors as they finish up their financial and program audit of our office.

Work continues with legislative oversight committees. Our planning work was evaluated by the Legislative Appropriations Sub-Committee on Education in the first part of the 2009 Session. I reported out to the sub-committee and advised them of the difficulties that we face to unilaterally guarantee 100% compliance with our standards each year. The interest of the committee is for the Board to demonstrate the status of those schools in deficiency accreditation status in a given school year, and whether or not the deficiency has been corrected or abated. I wrote an earlier correspondence to Senator

Wanzenreid and copied the whole committee on a position in this regard. The Board was released from three of its original goals as we have completed them. Also, I convinced the committee to broaden the 4th goal so that we will “work toward” districts being 100% in compliance rather than “ensure”. The Education and Local Government Committee remains engaged in a process with our partners at OCHE about college preparedness and how to reduce remediation rates on campus. They envision that a paper be prepared to articulate shared goals in this regard. The paper is to be prepared during this interim. This work spills over into the “leaky pipeline” and post-secondary readiness work of the Kindergarten to College Workgroup.

Work continues in the coordination with the OPI on an assessment working group to continue identifying appropriate and meaningful assessments for all of our students. A new wrinkle with which to contend are proposed “high quality” assessments which will be coordinated with the Common Core Standards if they become a reality for the state. An Assessment Task Force was appointed and has been meeting. The OPI curriculum specialists will be involved with assessment, which should be helpful even though recruiting for these positions continues to be difficult. We continue to work with our attorney and outside legal counsel in processing revocations and appeals of license denials brought before the Board. We have experienced a slight increase in our “material and substantial non-performance” cases which come directly to the BPE. On July 13th we will host a meeting on licensure to look at the many issues surrounding the processes involved with denial, suspension and revocation.

The case, which has been appealed to the First Judicial District for judicial review, has yet to be litigated and is still pending. We continue to advise the OBPP of our potential budgetary shortfalls for the coming two years and have complied with an executive order to reduce our FY 10 expenses by 5%. I also have visited with the LFD about possible cuts for the next biennium. Specifically they inquired about the amount of dues we pay to belong to NASBE. The Board received a 2% cut to its budget for the current biennium and was asked by the Governor for an additional 5% reduction. The Governor’s office is instructing agencies to incorporate FY 10 cuts into their planning for the next biennium.

Board work continues to include but is not limited to: review with possible amendments to Chapter 55; work with the Interim Legislative Committee and the LFD; Common Core Standards; Race to the Top; federal grant money to develop a longitudinal data system; Learning First Alliance; Montana Association of School Nurses; implementation of the new rule for post-secondary faculty and the development of an intake document for licensure; strategic planning meeting; school safety issues; wrap-up of the Distance Learning Phase II Task Force; work with the Interim Committee on Legislative Finance; design performance measures to the satisfaction of the LFD; implementation of the BPE’s five-year planning process; future of assessments in the absence of the NRT, as well as future assessments to inform instruction; future assessments associated with Common Core requirements; monitoring of the implementation of Chapter 57 work in the 2010 license cycle; Kindergarten to College Workgroup and its future viability; dual enrollment/credit work; counsellorship initiative; assessment alignment work; MSDB coordination and oversight; MSDB strategic planning; previous interim committee work

follow-up and monitoring the MQEC and their efforts; CSPAC Assessment Study Group; Pilot (Praxis II) testing efforts; NCLB implications and future reauthorization of ESEA; work of the Montana Digital Academy and its future; meetings of the Ed Forums; Special Purpose Schools Task Force; Chapter 55 review process with a focused look at alternative standards; PEPPS Review Advisory Panel; involvement with planning for NASBE's annual meeting to be held in SLC in 2010; monitoring of the writing assessment consortia project; writing implementation committee work; monitor the Indian Education for All efforts; High School Improvement Initiative; results of the Legislative interest of the high school drop-out rate in Montana and data alignment between OCHE and OPI; performance-based budgeting proposals expectations for the 2011 legislative session; Board responsibilities with the implementation of the teacher loan repayment plan found in SB 2; issues revolving around "alternative to our standards" requests; ongoing questions related to the bullying and related accreditation issues; financial education curricular concerns; school nutrition and physical education; civic education; NASBE grant follow-up on student leadership; license discipline processes-particularly related to suspensions and revocations; and the fielding of an increasing number of calls from the public regarding various and current issues before the Board.

Most of the other issues with which I have dealt have been brought to your attention by way of phone and e-mail correspondence, however I have highlighted the following:

- Continued work with legislature on fiscal responsibility processes for SB 152
- Development of K-12 and K-20 strategic planning goals and the accountable measures with the Education and Local Government
- Coordination of efforts and monitoring of the Montana Digital Academy work
- Met with the LFD and the OPI regarding protocol for fiscal reporting
- Attended first and second meeting of the Chapter 55 task force
- Attended the June 8th Ed Forum
- Attended farewell for Claudette Morton
- Participated in statewide conference on school safety
- Served on two panels regarding school bullying
- Attended NASBE Board of Directors meeting in Washington DC
- Planned NCCSBE Conference
- Met with MSDB Committee
- Monitored work of the Montana Digital Academy
- Met with Legislative staff on formulating SPG's

The work before the Board continues with a high level of importance, including; Working with two interim committees of the legislature; the Common Core concept; Race to the Top; longitudinal data systems; implementing dual enrollment/credit with emphasis on the Class 8 licensing phase; Counselor Leadership Initiative; The Healthy Schools Network (Team Asthma) and the Learning First Alliance. There is a great deal of interest from the legislature to expand our state's distance learning offerings and the work of the Montana Digital Academy will certainly lend to this effort. Other areas include assessment, strategic planning, and relation building with the OPI, the Board of

Regents, the Governor's office, the legislature, the OCHE, and the Kindergarten to College Workgroup and all of our educational partners through vigilant participation in Ed Forum which has been reinstated.

Meetings Attended by Peter Donovan
03/10/10 to 07/13/10

1. Board of Public Education, Helena	03/11, 12/10
2. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	03/15/10
3. Ed Forum	03/16/10
4. Video conference/Possibility of ASPC for Dance	03/16/10
5. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	03/22/10
6. Montana Math and Science Initiative	03/24/10
7. School Staffing Project/Personnel Assignment Subcommittee	04/6/10
8. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	04/8/10
9. Learning First Alliance	04/13/10
10. Planning for Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	04/15/10
11. Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	04/16/10
12. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	04/19/10
13. Transforming School Counseling in MT Conference	04/22/10
14. Video Conference – Licensure of Chinese/Arabic Teachers	04/26/10
15. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	04/26/10
16. Praxis Client Meeting, Princeton	04/27-30/10
17. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	05/3/10
18. School Staffing Project/Personnel Assignment Subcommittee	05/4/10
19. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	05/12/10
20. Board of Public Education, Great Falls	05/13, 14/10
21. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	05/17/10
22. Ann Gilkey, OPI, Professional Practices	05/21/10

23. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	05/24/10
24. Montana Math and Science Teacher Initiative, Council of Deans	05/25/10
25. Partnerships for 21 st Century Skills	05/27/10
26. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	05/28/10
27. Onsite Accreditation Review of Salish-Kootenai College	06/1-3/10
28. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	06/4/10
29. Conference Call – Planning for Chapter 55 Task Force Meeting	06/4/10
30. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	06/7/10
31. Ed Forum	06/8/10
32. Planning for Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	06/10/10
33. NASDTEC Annual Conference, Indianapolis	06/13-16/10
34. Planning for Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	06/17/10
35. Retirement Party for Claudette Morton	06/17/10
36. Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	06/18/10
37. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	06/21/10
38. Accreditation of Teacher Education Meeting, OPI	06/23/10
39. Ed Forum	06/24/10
40. Dr. Mary Moe, Steve Meloy, Dual Enrollment	06/25/10
41. School Staffing Project, Leadership Team	07/8/10
42. Planning for Chapter 55 Review Task Force Meeting	07/13/10
43. Licensure Discussion, Sharon Carroll, OPI Staff	07/13/10

*The Slippery Slope
of
Teacher Sexual Misconduct with Students*


Dr. Troy R. Hutchings
Northern Arizona University
June 16, 2010

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Slide 1



Background


- No available research to frame moral and responsible teacher practice
- There is a noticeable absence of research regarding teacher sexual misconduct with students

Slide 2



- Prevention strategies have not been adequately explored
- Lack of data from legal, investigative, and educational practitioners
- Student-teacher relationships must be trustworthy


Slide 3



Teacher Sexual Misconduct

Shakeshaft (2004): "9.6% of all students in grades 8-11 report contact and/or noncontact educator sexual misconduct that was unwanted."

Slide 4

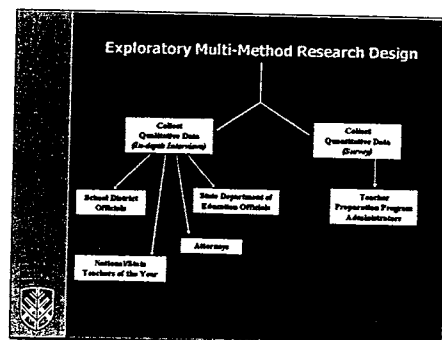


Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the study:

- Determine if a need exists for preservice examination of conduct, ethics, and law
- Determine if an examination might serve as a prevention strategy for teacher misconduct


Slide 5



Slide 11


4. Instruction at the preservice level should not be theoretical, but transformational

5. Incongruence exists between academicians' and practitioners' perceptions regarding the ethical readiness of teachers



Slide 12

6. A need does exist within the teacher preparation curriculum for a thorough examination of professional conduct, educator ethics, and teacher law




Slide 13

Eros

(yes, you read right... EROS!!!!)

"Eros... a Greek words for love... that creative power which propels the knowledge quest and gives resonance to the search for meaning."

"Eros, broadly defined, as passion and connection... the transformative quality of education." (Burch)



Slide 14

The Progression...


Professional Relationship

↓

Emotional Relationship

↓

Physical Relationship




Slide 15

Slippery Slope...

The Context of the offender:


- Often troubled family history
- Feeling the void from unhappy relationship or recent breakup
- Teaching persona:
 1. holistic teaching
 2. reach marginalized students
 3. "teacher as savior"



Slide 21

**Where is the
point-of-no-return on the
slippery slope continuum?**

If a teacher does not clearly
establish the very first boundary,
then all other boundaries have the
potential to become arbitrary.



Slide 22



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Dear Valued Client:

A little over a month ago, ETS held its annual Praxis Client Conference where we announced some exciting new developments for your program. While it was great to see so many of our clients, it's regrettable that some of you were unable to attend. We realize the factors for not attending were primarily outside your control. Some faced travel restrictions while others just couldn't break away due to the extreme demands on your time.

If you were not in attendance, your binder, with copies all the conference presentations and materials, has either been sent to you or will be personally delivered by your Client Relations Director as we are trying to "bring the conference" to as many of you who were unable to attend, as possible.

In the meantime, as part of our commitment to share the latest information about teacher licensure testing and your program, we wanted to provide this brief update to you.

An accelerated move to computer delivered testing

When we spoke to you last year, it had been our intention to roll out Praxis II test titles in a computer delivered format beginning in 2011. We're pleased to inform you that we will start our transition of Praxis II titles to computer delivery beginning this September, 2010, *a full year ahead of schedule, with more tests than initially planned*. Starting this September many of your candidates will be taking their licensure tests through a computer delivered format. That means in just a few short months, your candidates will start registering for their computer delivered Praxis II exams. We will transition the program in phases and when the transition is complete, your entire testing program will have moved to computer delivery with no additional demands on the agency, your institutions of higher education, or disruption of service to your candidates.

Prometric Testing Center video

To help candidates understand what will happen when they visit one of our Prometric Testing Centers and begin to test online, we've launched an online video that will walk them through their entire computer delivered testing experience. This will help them acclimate to the computer delivered experience and lessen any test anxiety they may experience. You can view the video at <http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/FlashPrometric/hesa.html>.

Immediate score delivery



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One significant benefit to the move to computer delivered testing is the delivery of immediate score feedback. Within seconds after taking a multiple-choice test on computer, candidates will receive their scores on their computer screen.

Jerry DeLuca

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PRAXIS™ Data Manager

ETS also announced the launch of the Praxis Data Manager. The Praxis Data Manager will provide real-time direct access to your state's data with both easy access to preformatted reports and the ability to create custom reports on demand. The tool will be available to your agency this year, and will be available to Institutions of Higher Education in 2011.

Additional Sessions

We had a number of presentations by state clients that highlighted a variety of licensure activities and programs in their states. Many thanks to the following for sharing their work with the group:

Esther Baker – Washington – Washington ProTeach

Kathy Boyer – Kansas – Kansas Teacher Leader Assessment

Barbara Culpepper – Arkansas – Building a Middle School: Multiple Subjects Assessment with consequential scores for each of the four subject areas

Marg Mast – Indiana – Adding a state specific component to the SLLA

Travis Rawlings – Utah - Building an Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Assessment with consequential scores for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics.

Additionally, Jo Anderson, Senior Advisor from the US Department of Education, Allison Henderson from WESTAT, and Larry Shumway Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction shared their insights with the group.

Finally, Laura Goe, esteemed ETS researcher, presented some of her latest research on Teacher Effectiveness.

Copies of all presentations are included in the Conference binders that were provided to the attendees.

Addition to the Client Relations Staff

In an effort to provide better service to our clients, we have added another Client Relations Director to the Client Relations Staff. Nathan Estel, former Executive Director at the West Virginia Department of Education joined the client relations staff on February 15. If you attended the conference, you had the opportunity to meet Nathan. Additionally some of you may have recently met Nathan when he was in your state shadowing one of the other Client Relations Directors. Still, I'm sure there are a number of you who have yet to meet Nathan. Nathan is



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already doing an excellent job for us and we are lucky to have him. He is an excellent addition to the team and I'm sure he is looking forward to meeting each and every one of you.

If you have any questions regarding the Conference or your Praxis Program, please contact your Praxis Client Relations Director.

Best regards,

Jerry DeLuca
National Director, Praxis Client Relations

in the Montana University System

Newsletter 33 July 2010

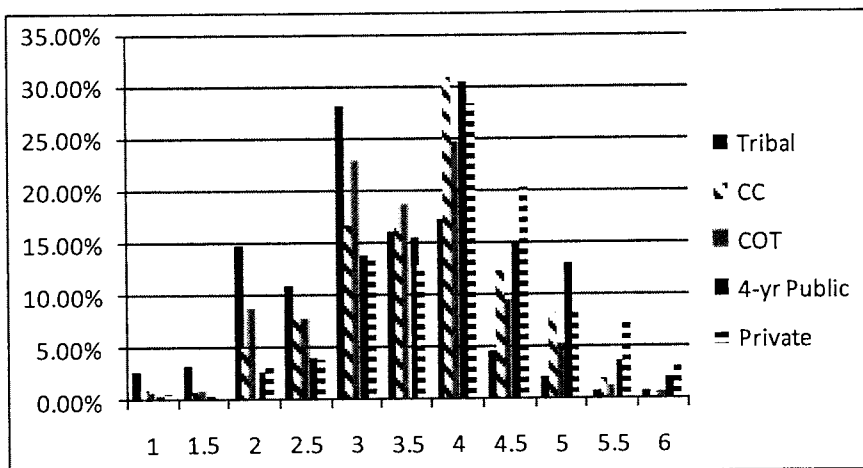
Scores Correlate with College Selections

In February of 2010, over 7,500 Montana students took the Montana University System Writing Assessment. Newsletter 32, mailed to participating schools in May and available on the Writing Proficiency website, reported statewide scores with frequency distributions at each score point, a graph showing gains made over nine testing years, and other information. This newsletter delves more deeply into the test data.

Students must score at least 3.5 in order to be fully admitted to a four-year program in the Montana University System or to be placed into College Writing, WRIT101. Otherwise, they are provisionally admitted until they earn a C- or better in a developmental composition course.

The graph below shows **percent, not number**, of students at each score point who indicated which type of post-secondary educational institution in Montana they plan to attend. In general, students who score below 3.5 plan to attend a two-year program, where several developmental courses are offered and where they can be admitted without provisions. For example, 59% of the students selecting Tribal College, 41% selecting College of Technology, 31% selecting Community College, and 21% selecting Four-year Universities scored below 3.5. "No choice" includes students planning to go out of state and those without college plans.

Distribution of Scores by College Plans

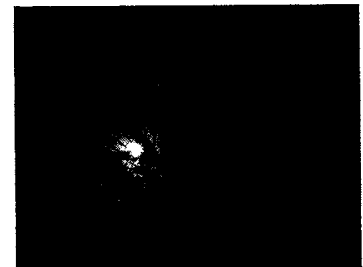


Average Scores by College Plans

	CC	COT	Priv 4-yr	Pub 4-yr	Tribal	No	Overall
Average	3.68	3.48	4.02	3.95	3.09	3.86	3.84
Number	553	1033	298	3968	157	1545	

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Website:
<http://mus.edu/writingproficiency/index.asp>

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Proficiency
Admissions

American Indian Scores Continue to Improve

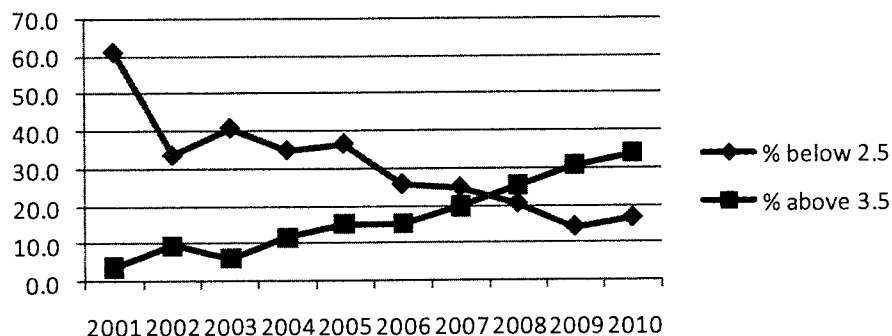
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Score	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White	Indian	White
1	6.9	1.7	4.8	1.1	3.6	1.0	3.4	0.8	2.4	0.8	2.5	0.7	1.1	0.6	2.3	0.2
1.5	8.0	3.4	7.2	1.2	5.9	1.9	5.2	0.7	5.5	1.2	3.2	0.7	1.5	0.5	2.6	0.4
2	24.4	9.6	22.9	8.9	27.0	8.6	17.1	6.2	16.9	6.9	14.8	4.8	11.6	4.5	11.7	3.5
2.5	16.4	10.8	19.1	9.7	16.6	9.0	15.6	6.8	14.3	7.6	13.2	6.6	11.4	4.8	10.9	4.2
3	22.2	21.4	26.6	23.1	22.1	23.9	27.1	25.5	27.8	23.7	25.1	18.5	21.6	15.9	22.6	15.2
3.5	14.6	18.2	7.9	16.4	9.4	15.5	15.2	16.3	13.0	16.4	14.8	17.2	21.4	14.4	16.0	15.6
4	4.7	14.5	6.8	18.2	8.1	18.5	9.8	20.5	13.0	22.3	13.9	26.4	19.7	29.1	20.4	29.3
4.5	1.1	9.9	3.1	11.0	5.5	11.0	1.8	10.5	3.7	10.0	5.5	11.6	6.0	12.7	7.4	14.1
5	0.4	6.9	1.4	7.3	1.6	7.4	2.7	8.8	2.4	7.7	5.3	9.1	4.1	11.3	3.4	12.1
5.5		2.6	0.3	2.2		2.0	0.9	2.1	0.7	2.1	0.5	2.7	0.4	3.4	1.3	3.8
6		0.8		0.9		1.2	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.7	1.3	1.7
Number	275	3104	297	3984	307	5056	328	5940	454	6175	438	6124	534	6514	530	6317
Mean	2.55		2.66		2.73		2.85		2.94		3.08		3.24		3.28	
% below 2.5	40.7	15.1	34.8	11.2	36.5	11.5	25.7	7.7	24.8	8.9	20.5	6.3	14.2	5.6	16.6	4.1
% above 3.5	6.2	34.6	11.6	39.6	15.2	40.1	15.2	43.1	19.8	43.2	25.4	51.3	30.6	58.2	33.8	61.0

Approaches to Scoring and Data Recognize Diversity

On the 2010 MUSWA, about 7% of the test-takers identified themselves as American Indian and another 4% as multiracial. In order to mitigate bias in scoring, training materials for scorers include sample papers that use narrative to persuade or less linear approaches to organization, yet still earn high ratings. These approaches to writing may be used more often in non-white cultures. American Indian students have made steady gains over the seven years of testing, in part because their teachers are committed to participating in training and scoring sessions, learning how they can better prepare all students for college writing.

When the Montana University System began field testing in 2001, the score that would be used to determine placement into the entry-level college composition course had not yet been determined. The MUS began tracking the percentage of students scoring at the low end of the scale, writing essays that were not at or even nearing proficiency (scores of 1 or 2) and those that were proficient or advanced (scores of 4, 5 and 6). A score of “3” is considered “nearing proficiency” and with a score of 3.5, one scorer believed the essay to be “nearing proficiency (3), while the other scorer believed it to be just at the threshold of proficiency (4).

Percent of AI Students Scoring Below and Above Proficiency Level



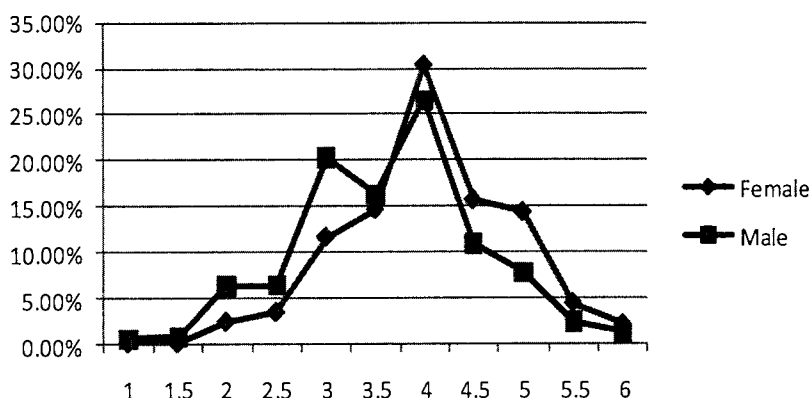
The 2010 scores for American Indian students showed a slight increase in scores below 2.5, despite an increase in the top scores, including 14 AI students who received Letters of Recognition for scores of 5.5 and 6.0 as compared to only 4 in 2009.

In addition, 13 multiracial students earned scores of 5.5 and 6.0 and 54% of the multiracial students scored above 3.5.

Girls Earn Higher Scores on Writing Assessment

In 2010, there was again an achievement gap of about .4 (similar to every other year except 2004) between male and female writers. In both 2010 and 2009, boys wrote 39% of the 6's; in 2008, they wrote 36% of the 6's; in 2007, boys wrote 32% of the 6's. In 2010, 2.9% of the girls wrote papers in the 1-2 range, whereas 7.8% of the boys wrote 1's and 2's—much better than in 2009, when 17% of the boys wrote in that lowest range. Male students earned an average score of 3.65 (up from 3.57 in 2009), whereas females averaged 4.03 (up from 3.95 in 2009).

Distribution of Scores by Gender



Score	Female	Male
1	0.22%	0.65%
1.5	0.19%	0.86%
2	2.50%	6.33%
2.5	3.55%	6.43%
3	11.69%	20.31%
3.5	14.70%	16.33%
4	30.34%	26.56%
4.5	15.72%	10.96%
5	7.81%	10.96%
5.5	4.50%	2.45%
6	2.15%	1.30%

	FEMALE	MALE	Difference
Prompt 1	4.00	3.56	0.44
Prompt 2	4.15	3.73	0.42
Prompt 3	4.00	3.62	0.38
Prompt 4	3.95	3.65	0.30
Prompt 5	4.00	3.66	0.34
Prompt 6	4.07	3.66	0.41

An examination of the prompts by gender show a smaller discrepancy of scores between girls and boys on prompts 4 and 5 and the greatest difference on prompts 1 and 2. This kind of data is used each year to help determine which prompts will be retired and which remain in the pool.

ESL Students Score Below State Average

Only 123 students indicated that English is not their primary language. The chart to the right shows the distribution of their scores in comparison to students whose primary language is English. On average, ESL students scored 3.37, compared to the state average of 3.84. However, 15.5% of those students were able to write essays with scores above 4, compared to only 8.4% in 2008 and 12.8% in 2009.

Score	ENG		ESL	
	#	%	#	%
1	30	0.41%	2	1.63%
1.5	39	0.53%	1	0.81%
2	321	4.33%	13	10.57%
2.5	362	4.89%	15	12.20%
3	1184	15.99%	27	21.95%
3.5	1149	15.51%	19	15.45%
4	2115	28.56%	27	21.95%
4.5	993	13.41%	9	7.32%
5	825	11.14%	8	6.50%
5.5	259	3.50%	2	1.63%
6	129	1.74%	0	0.00%
Grand Total	7406	100.00%	123	100.00%

Inter-rater Reliability Analyzed

This table shows that for 60.88% of the essays, both scorers were in perfect agreement with the score and that only 1.48% required a third reader, called the resolver. These figures translate into an inter-rater reliability coefficient of .868, using Cronbach's Alpha, compared to .873 in 2009. This reliability data is considered high among performance assessments of this nature. Many scorers feel that sometimes the "correct score" lies between two whole-number score points and are satisfied with a final score of 3.5, for example, which represents two adjacent scores.

Inter-rater Reliability		
Rater Scoring	#	%
Perfect	4605	60.88%
Adjacent	2847	37.64%
Discrepant	112	1.48%
Grand Total	7564	100.00%

Another set of statistics, of particular interest to trainers, are tables that disaggregate data by scoring site and show how many tests were scored at each site. For 2010, the percent of scores with perfect agreement as figured by site ranged from 57% to 73.2%.

Missoula hosted more scorers than other sites, in part because many pre-service teachers enrolled in the University of Montana consider this training essential to their preparation as teachers of writing.

Accuracy in scoring is also checked by printing a random sample of tests twice and sending them to two different scoring sites. Where there is a difference, the higher score is reported to the student. The few tests that are found to have discrepant scores are then reprinted for trainers to analyze and use to improve scoring accuracy in the following year.

Location	# of Tests	# Scorers
Billings	1181	59
Bozeman	553	38
Glasgow	559	28
Great Falls	737	39
Helena	757	40
Kalispell	1198	44
Miles City	430	23
Missoula	2139	98
Grand Total	7554	369

Prompts Analyzed for Consistency and Fairness

	Prompt 1	Prompt 2	Prompt 3	Prompt 4	Prompt 5	Prompt 6
Perfect	813	836	957	591	665	707
Adjacent	482	509	622	365	405	446
Discrepant	24	18	22	13	14	21
Grand Total	1319	1363	1601	969	1084	1174
Perfect	61.64%	61.34%	59.78%	60.99%	61.35%	60.22%
Adjacent	36.54%	37.34%	38.85%	37.67%	37.36%	37.99%
Discrepant	1.82%	1.32%	1.37%	1.34%	1.29%	1.79%

Each year, prompts are rated based on how often they are chosen by students, their inter-rater reliability, average scores, and the distribution of solutions that students defend.

The prompts are paired, then distributed as evenly as possible to students. This chart shows that prompt #1 was only slightly more popular than #2; but prompt #3 was much more popular than #4 (62% vs. 38%); and prompt #5 somewhat more popular than #6 (52% vs. 48%). Prompt #1 was new to the 2010 test. The chart above also shows inter-rater reliability by prompt.

In terms of options (first or second solution to the problem, or a third solution invented by the writer), the prompt with the most balance among three options was prompt #4 (45.5%, 32.4%, and 22.1%) and Prompt #2 generated the fewest invented solutions (7.1%), with 63.4% taking the first option and 29.5% defending the second option. This data will help determine which 2010 prompt(s) to retire in 2011.

Scorers Rate Writing Assessment Workshops Highly; Providing Useful Comments

A total of 369 people scored essays during the March 2010 Writing Assessment Workshops. Of those, 287 completed evaluations. Assigned to collect evaluations, most of the 48 trainers did not complete evaluations. Scorers responded to statements as follows:

This workshop helps me prepare students for college writing and/or other writing assessments.

97% of the respondents agreed with this statement. Comments included the following:

I know what is expected of my students after they graduate.

This gives me teaching points.

A unified standard is handy to have as a comparison.

I love reading essays and discussing their strengths and weaknesses.

I think the prompts generated useful pieces of writing and were fair and unbiased.

97% of the respondents agreed with this statement and commented as follows:

These topics are very pertinent to issues current in our schools.

The prompts give students lots of ideas.

With some exceptions, I think students took this test seriously.

100% agreed with this statement and wrote comments such as these:

Very few times did I notice students who could have done better, but blew it off.

I watched them working diligently.

I believe that I can score tests reliably with this rubric.

96% agreed with this statement, writing comments such as:

I liked testing our calibration in a variety of ways. It helped me feel confident in my scoring ability.

This is very concrete.

Working with the rubric and anchor sets helped me understand my own biases.

We are trying to quantify something (writing skill) that is ultimately unquantifiable. This is a conundrum that most sensitive English professionals are willing to admit we must live with.

Pacing of the training was appropriate.

88% agreed with this statement. Comments included these:

A little redundant.

The many practice sets helped me greatly. After so many, I felt I knew what was expected for each level.

Would it be possible for experienced scorers to test early, and if they scored well, to begin scoring before the new scorers?

Note: The previous question appears a few times every year. However, experienced scorers are mentors for new scorers in the discussions of the anchor, practice, and consensus sets. Excusing experienced scorers from the first part of training could negatively impact the group dynamics at each scoring table and their expertise would be missed.

Experienced scorers are urged to become trainers, so that their experience can be used as an asset. Concrete ideas about how best to use experienced scorers, while not rushing the training for new scorers are welcomed! Send ideas to: jjelinard@montana.edu.

Although it's hard work, I had the right number of papers and amount of time to score accurately.

99% of the respondents agreed, commenting:

I was tired by the end.

I could have scored more!

As difficult as the scoring was, it was the best way to learn.

We rocked!

Finally, one new scorer suggested that the training and scoring be done online. However, the most common phrases used to answer what was most useful were:

**Discussing our craft
Professional collaboration
Scoring as a group
Discussion with colleagues
Getting together**

Common Core Standards Emphasize Argumentation

Governors and state school superintendents from 48 states, including Montana, have committed to implementing a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)** was coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within K-12 education so that they will graduate from high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. States were asked to adopt the Common Core State Standards as part of the applications for *Race to the Top* funding.

College and Career Readiness Standards “anchor” the standards for all grade levels, but this analysis concentrates on standards for grades 11-12. Though the Writing Standards include three text types, argument, informational/explanatory writing, and narrative writing, they emphasize students’ ability to write sound arguments, as this ability is critical to college and career readiness.

Arguments are used for many purposes—to change the reader’s point of view, to bring about some action on the reader’s part, or to ask the reader to accept the writer’s explanation or evaluation of a concept, issue, or problem. An argument is a reasoned, logical way of demonstrating that the writer’s position, belief, or conclusion is valid.

English and education professor Gerald Graff (2003) writes that “argument literacy” is fundamental to being educated. The university is largely an “argument culture,” Graff contends; therefore, K-12 schools should “teach the conflicts” so that students are adept at understanding and engaging in argument (both oral and written) when they enter college. He claims that because argument is not standard in most school curricula, only 20 percent of those who enter college are prepared in this respect. When the MUSWA was introduced in 2001, this was also true in Montana. However, during the past ten years, Montana’s high schools have worked to ensure that their students can write arguments.

Theorist and critic Neil Postman (1997) calls argument the soul of an education because argument forces a writer to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of multiple perspectives. When teachers ask students to consider two or more perspectives on a topic or issue, something far beyond surface knowledge is required: students must think critically and deeply, assess the validity of their own thinking, and anticipate counterclaims in opposition to their own assertions.

Much evidence supports the value of argument generally and its particular importance to college and career readiness. A 2009 ACT national curriculum survey of postsecondary instructors of composition, freshman English, and survey of American literature courses (ACT, Inc., 2009) found that “write to argue or persuade readers” was virtually tied with “write to convey information” as the most important type of writing needed by incoming college students.

The 2007 writing framework for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (National Assessment Governing Board, 2006) assigns persuasive writing the single largest targeted allotment of assessment time at grade 12 (40 percent, versus 25 percent for narrative writing and 35 percent for informative writing).

A 2002 survey of instructors of freshman composition and other introductory courses across the curriculum in California found that among the most important skills expected of incoming students were articulating a clear thesis; identifying, evaluating, and using evidence to support or challenge the thesis; and considering and incorporating counterarguments into their writing.

The writers of the standards distinguish “argument” from “persuasion” by describing persuasion as appealing to emotions and the reader’s self-interest, while arguments rely more heavily on logic and reason. This distinction is not universally embraced, particularly as it applies to high school writers.

See: <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards>.

How does the MUSWA Align with the Common Core Standards?

MUSWA prompts present students with issues about which they must “clarify their positions,” developing arguments with relevant evidence, elaboration, or explanations. The Common Core Standards (CCS) require that students “write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.” Instead of the standard of evidence as “sufficient,” the MUSWA uses “extensive and compelling” for a 6, “moderate” for a 5, and “some” for a 4. During MUSWA workshops, trainers may need to discuss the concept of sufficient versus insufficient evidence.

The Common Core Standards list five student expectations under argumentation:

1. Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

MUSWA describes a score of 6 as demonstrated in papers that “clarify a position on the issue defined in the prompt” with organization that is “unified and logical, with effective transitions.”

As a timed writing, the MUSWA prompt itself introduces two opposing claims. Although not specified in the rubric, often the highest-scoring essays include the counterarguments.

2. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.

Under the constraints of time and a controlled testing environment, MUSWA writers may not be able to develop claims “thoroughly” or supply “the most relevant data.”

MUSWA’s letter format encourages students to recognize the audience’s knowledge and students often appeal to their perceived values and biases.

3. Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.

MUSWA describes a score of 6 as demonstrated with language that is “fluent with well-controlled sentences, clear and effective expression of ideas, and precise word choice.”

Although these relationships may be evident in high-scoring essays, the MUSWA rubric does not require this level of sophistication for proficiency.

4. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

Although style and tone are not part of the MUSWA rubric, students can earn a low score for “inappropriate” language. Conventions are scored in the MUSWA in terms of grammar, usage, mechanics, and command of language.

5. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.

In general, MUSWA considers the conclusion part of coherent organization.

MUSWA also recognizes unconventional, yet effective organizational patterns found outside academic writing and mainstream cultures.

The Common Core Standards also require that students “use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.” The bulk of MUSWA tests are taken online. In addition, CCS require that students be able to “incorporate narrative elements effectively into arguments and informative/explanatory texts.” MUSWA purposefully includes such samples in its training materials. Argumentation that successfully uses narrative, however, may not meet the standards for argumentation as described above.

The March version of the Common Core Standards clearly reflected the scoring rubrics of the ACT Optional Writing Test, the SAT Essay, and the MUSWA (which are similar in wording and emphasis). This final version appears to be based on the theoretical work of Stephen Toulmin and approaches to argumentation found in some college courses.

Teachers of Writing Can Earn Three Graduate Credits Online

Funded in part by Title II: Improving Teacher Quality, the course **EDCI 588-52: Exploring and Implementing Writing Strategies Across Disciplines** is offered during the fall 2010 semester online, via WebCT. This course is designed to provide practicing high school teachers with an opportunity to collaborate with university writing instructors and other high school teachers from across the state.

The intent of this course is to support practicing teacher's efforts to improve their students' writing skills by piloting a variety of writing strategies with their students and reflecting upon their experiences. The major course goal is to assist teachers in their efforts to develop a cadre of effective instructional strategies that will improve the writing skills of their students.

Topics such as the following will be covered: (1) assessing writing Strengths and Weaknesses and targeting areas for improvement; (2) strategies for increasing student comfort with writing; (3) designing and implementing prewriting strategies; (4) teaching basic writing skills; (5) promoting writing that reflects critical thinking; (6) using the Montana Holistic Scoring Rubric to assess persuasive writing skills; (7) and implementing other writing strategies identified by practicing teachers enrolled in the course.

Course Requirements: Engage in weekly discussions hosted in WebCT, and (2) submit several reflection papers related to the writing strategies implemented and (3) completing a course project. Projects will be one of two options: 1) choose four writing strategies that other teachers are using, implement, and examine how the strategies impact your students' writing; or 2) design and implement an action research project to demonstrate the efficacy of a writing strategy.

Computer Requirements: (1) Computer running Windows 2000 or newer or Mac OS X or higher (2) CD-ROM drive and (3) Internet access

Grading Criteria: Grades are Pass/Fall and are based on completing requirements listed above.

Dates: September 13 - December 3, 2010

Montana State University Instructor: Kaci Shober

Prerequisites: Bachelor's degree and teacher certification.

Cost: If your school district is participating in the Montana University System Writing Assessment, the cost is \$35. For all other participants, the cost is \$234.80.

Please register as soon as possible!

For More Information:

Contact instructor, Kacie Shober, bkshober@msn.com or 406-587-1647.

Register Online at <http://btc.montana.edu/courses/asp/online.aspx#EDCI>.

2011 Testing Window and Writing Workshop Dates Set

Schools may plan ahead to a **testing window of February 1-25 for the 2011 MUSWA**. Schools should schedule a regular testing date, as well as one day for make-up tests within this window

Scoring workshops will follow this schedule:

- March 7-8 Kalispell
- March 9-10 Missoula
- March 14-15 Helena
- March 21-22 Billings
- March 22-23 Miles City
- March 24-25 Bozeman
- March 28-29 Glasgow
- March 30-31 Great Falls

Please mark your calendars with these dates. You are not obligated to attend the training nearest you, nor must all personnel from a single school district attend the same workshop. Teachers from all grade levels and subject areas are encouraged to attend.

As a rule of thumb, large schools should send at least one scorer for every 40 essays they submit. In 2010, 7,554 essays were scored by 369 people, averaging about 21 essays per scorer. colleges and universities contribute scorers, school districts do not need to send one scorer for every 25 essays. Essays are read twice. Therefore, each participant scored about 50 essays.

College credit may be earned (with an outside assignment) and OPI renewal units are available.

Montana
Professional
Teaching
Foundation



2010 Educator Forum

Plan to join the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation in celebrating successful, innovative educational initiatives from around Montana. Even in difficult financial times Montana's K12 teachers, administrators, school board members, and higher education faculty are striving to improve K12 education and teacher preparation. Come to the Educator Forum and hear from several panels of educators about the innovations that they have put into place in their district or university.

We encourage folks to bring teams from their local areas. Anyone who is interested in K12 education is invited: teachers, administrators, school board members, legislators, parents, and college faculty. Teams will be given a group discount. **Start forming your team today!!**

Innovation in a Time of Scarcity

Save the Date!!

Friday, October 8

Red Lion Colonial Inn
2301 Colonial Dr
Helena, MT

***MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY
COUNCIL***

B Y L A W S

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, has been formed in accordance with 2-15-1522 MCA, and shall have as its purposes:

- A. To study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the following areas:
1. Teacher certification standards, including, but not limited to, precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;
 2. Administrator certification standards, including, but not limited to, precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;
 3. Specialist certification standards, including, but not limited to, precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;
 4. Feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct;
 5. The status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and
 6. Policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teaching certification and the appeals process. For the purpose of preparing recommendations in this area, the Council is authorized to review the individual cases and files that have been submitted to the Board of Public Education.

- B. To submit a written report with its recommendations annual and at other appropriate times to the Board of Public Education.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. **Membership.** The Council shall consist of seven members appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Public Education. The membership must include:

1. Three teachers engaged in classroom teaching, including:
 - a. one who teaches within kindergarten through grade 8;
 - b. one who teaches within grade 9 through 12; and
 - c. one additional teacher from any category in subsection (2) (a) or (2) (b) of 2-15-1522 MCA.
2. one person employed as a specialist or K-12 specialist;
3. one faculty member from an approved teacher education program offered by an accredited teacher education institution;
4. one person employed as an administrator, with the certification required in 20-4-106 (1) (c); and
5. one school district trustee.

B. **Tenure.**

1. The term of office of an appointed member is three years. If a vacancy occurs on the Council, the Board of Public Education shall appoint a person from the category of membership in which the vacancy occurred to serve the unexpired term. Regular appointments shall begin June 1 and end May 31 of the third year of the term.
2. Any member desiring to resign from the Council shall submit his/her resignation in writing to the Council and to the Board of Public Education.

- C. **Compensation.** Council members are entitled to travel expenses incurred for each day of attendance at Council meetings or in the performance of any duty or service as a Council member in accordance with 2-18-501 through 2-18-503 MCA. Eligible Council members are also entitled to per diem for each day of attendance at Council meetings, not to exceed eight days per year, in accordance with 2-15-122 MCA.

- D. In order to receive reimbursement or compensation for out-of-state activities, the

Council member must obtain the approval of the Council Chairperson and the Council Administrator in advance of undertaking the activity.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

- A. **Meetings.** The Council shall meet quarterly and at other times as may be required for the proper conduct of the business of the Council at the call of the chairperson. Such business may include, but not be limited to:
1. Information, discussion, and action on matters related to the purposes of the Council described in Article II;
 2. Election of officers and appointments to committees as described in Article V;
 3. Apprising the Board of Public Education of budgetary needs of the Council and making recommendations on a preliminary budget;
 4. Reviewing Council Budget on an ongoing basis for further recommendations to the Board.
- B. **Quorum.** A quorum for a meeting shall be not less than four Council members.
- C. **Notice.** Each member of the Council shall be given written notice stating the place, day, and hour of any regularly scheduled meeting at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting. It shall be delivered by mail to the last known address of each member.
- D. **Absence.** Recognizing the value of his/her contribution to the business of the Council, each Council member shall be responsible to notify the chairperson in advance of any anticipated absence from a scheduled meeting. If a member is absent from three consecutive scheduled meetings, his/her membership shall be subject to review by the Board of Public Education to determine if the member's office shall be deemed vacant. If deemed vacant, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Article III, Section B.
- E. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Council or by a request in writing of two regular appointed members. When necessary the Council may hold meetings for resolution of specific agenda items either by a meeting in person, by conference call or by a combination of both. In the case of a special meeting, the administrative officer shall notify each regular member either by mail or by telephone sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow all council members to travel to the meeting site from their principal Montana residence.

In the case of a conference call, forty-eight hours prior to the meeting shall be deemed sufficient notice.

F. Meeting Procedure.

1. Meetings of the Council shall be governed by the following rules:

- a. The chair or vice-chair shall preside at all meetings. In their absence, a temporary presiding officer shall be selected by the membership.
- b. The presiding officer shall neither introduce nor second a motion.
- c. A motion shall require a simple majority of those present to pass.
- d. Any motion shall be in order as long as no previous motion is on the floor.
- e. Minutes shall be taken at all open sessions of the Council. The minutes shall be made available for public inspection by the Board of Public Education, subject to reasonable regulation in the time and manner of inspection.
- f. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail on questions of parliamentary procedure.

2. The regular order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting
4. Agenda adoption
5. Agenda
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Adjournment

3. An agenda shall set the structure for meetings of the Council.

- a. A tentative agenda shall be prepared as the last item of business by the Council at each regularly scheduled meeting.
- b. The tentative agenda may be modified by the membership through written notice at least 20 days prior to the meeting, at which time the tentative agenda, as modified, becomes the proposed agenda.

- c. The proposed agenda shall be included with the written notice of meeting required in Section C of this article.
- d. Persons or organizations desiring to address the Council may be placed on the proposed agenda by making a written request to a member. The Council member will present the request to the chair to be considered at the time of approval of the proposed agenda.
- e. The proposed agenda becomes the approved agenda by a majority vote of Council members at the beginning of the meeting.
- f. Whenever possible, support materials for the agenda shall be in graphic and/or written form and readily available to the membership.

ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION

Section A. Officers.

- 1. The Council shall select, by majority vote, a chair and vice-chair from its appointed members annually during the spring meeting of each year.
- 2. The term of elective office shall be for one year and an officer may not serve more than six consecutive years.
- 3. The chair shall be the presiding officer and shall preside over all regular, special, and public meetings of the Council. The vice-chair shall perform the functions of the chair in the absence of the chair.

Section B. Committees.

- 1. At the beginning of the chair's term, and as vacancies occur, the chair shall, with concurrence of a majority of the Council, appoint the committee chairs.
 - a. The Pre-Professional Preparation and Development Committee will initiate studies and recommendations on precertification training and education requirements for teachers, administrators and specialists.
 - b. The Licensure and Endorsement Committee will initiate studies and recommendations on types and alignments of certification and endorsements.

- c. The Montana Commission on Teaching will address issues critical to Montana's teaching profession in accordance with the Montana partnership agreement between the CSPAC and the National Commission on Teaching America's Future. The Board of Public Education will administer funds allocated to the Montana Commission on Teaching.
2. The chair of the Montana Commission on Teaching must be a CSPAC member.
3. The Chair may appoint Special Committees as needed that will allow in-depth study of issues that are the responsibility of the standing committees.
4. The Executive Committee shall consist of the chair and vice-chair. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for presenting budgeting proposals to the Council and to the Board of Public Education. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for performing other duties as assigned by the chair or Council.
5. The committees will meet at times agreed upon by the majority of the committee. The Council Chair and Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Education shall be informed of the purpose, time and place of all committee meetings.

ARTICLE VI. ASSISTANCE

The Council may request research, administrative, and clerical staff assistance from the Board of Public Education.

ARTICLE VII. COMMUNICATIONS

These bylaws may be added to or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council provided that the proposed amendment is sent in writing to all members of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council at least seven days in advance.

**JOINT BPE/CSPAC MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010**

*Room 152
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601*

Starting at 8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. May 13 – 14, 2010 Minutes
- B. Financials

ADOPT AGENDA

- Item 1 CSPAC ANNUAL REPORT - Judie Woodhouse**

- Item 2 JULY 14, 2010 CSPAC MEETING SUMMARY/CSPAC GOALS
Judie Woodhouse**

- Item 3 SUMMARY OF BPE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
Steve Meloy**

- Item 4 CSPAC APPOINTMENTS (ACTION) - Peter Donovan**

ADJOURN

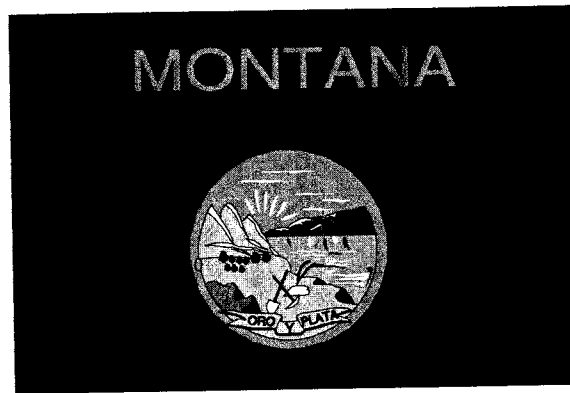
The Montana Board of Public Education is a Renewal Unit Provide. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting may qualify you to receive renewal units. One hour of contact time = 1 renewal unit, up to 4 renewal units per day. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet, if you are applying for renewal units.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTANA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL



TO THE

MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

July 15, 2010

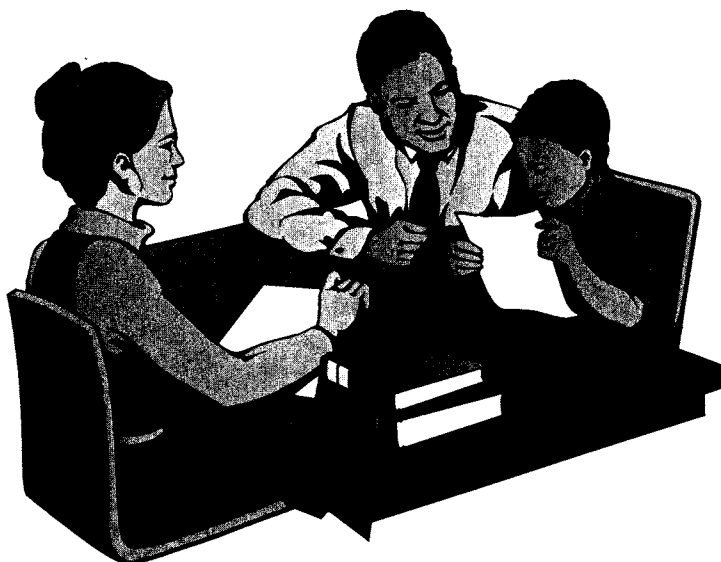
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Mission Statement</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Certification Advisory Council 2009 Membership.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>CSPAC Goals and Strategies for 2009.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Highlights of 2009-2010 CSPAC Meetings.....</i>	<i>7</i>

Mission Statement

The mission of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council is to study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will submit a report to the Board of Public Education with recommendations for the above areas at least once annually.



Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Preamble

Education in Montana is a public endeavor. Every Montanan has a responsibility for the schooling of our young people, and the state has charged professional educators with the primary responsibility of providing a breadth and depth of educational opportunities.

The professional conduct of every educator affects attitudes toward the profession and toward education. Aware of the importance of maintaining the confidence of students, parents, colleagues and the public, Montana educators strive to sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct. While the freedom to learn and the freedom to teach are essential to education in a democracy, educators in Montana balance these freedoms with their own adherence to this ethical code.

The Professional Educator in Montana:

Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.

- Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical, or illegal practice of any person.
- Provides educational services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the student.
- Safeguards the student's right to privacy by judiciously protecting information of a confidential nature.

Fulfills professional responsibilities with diligence and integrity.

- Enhances individual competence by increasing knowledge and skills.
- Exemplifies and fosters a philosophy of education which encourages a lifelong pursuit of learning.
- Contributes to the development and articulation of the profession's body of knowledge.
- Promotes professionalism by respecting the privacy and dignity of colleagues.
- Demands that conditions of employment are conducive to high-quality education.

Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.

- Respects the individual roles, rights, and responsibilities of the community; including parents, trustees, and colleagues.
- Assumes responsibility for individual actions.
- Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.

MONTANA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

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2009 MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair

Missoula
School Administrator

Judie Woodhouse, Vice-Chair

Polson
Secondary Teacher

Sharon Applegate

Kalispell
Elementary Teacher

Mary Susan Fishbaugh

Billings
Post Secondary
Education

Tonia Bloom

Corvallis
School Trustee

Patty Muir

Laurel
Reading Specialist

Jon Runnalls

East Helena
Elementary Teacher

CSPAC Staff:

Peter Donovan
E-mail: pdonovan@mt.gov

Administrative Officer

Anneliese Warhank
E-mail: awarhank@mt.gov

CSPAC Administrative
Assistant

CSPAC Goals for 2009-2010

- 1) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
- 2) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the areas of pre-certification training and educational requirements and in certification renewal requirements and procedures.
- 3) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' certificates and the appeals process.
- 4) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
- 5) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009-2010 **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND** **PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL** **MEETINGS**

Highlights of the January 15, 2009 **CSPAC Meeting**

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on January 15, 2009 at the Front Street Learning Center in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Bonnie Graham, MSU-Billings; Ms. Tracy Grazley, U of M Western; Ms. Kim Warrick, OPI; Mr. Larry Nielson, MEA-MFT; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Mr. Mike Miller, U of M Western.

Executive Committee

The Council reviewed last year's CSPAC Annual Report and discussed updates to be completed before presenting the 2008 Annual Report to the joint meeting with BPE in March. The Council then reviewed the short term goals and how they could achieve them. The highlights for the Interpreter's Standards Workgroup Meeting were reviewed and discussed.

No Child Left Behind Update

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction for OPI, came before the Council to update them on the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB states that an educator who is licensed and endorsed in the areas they teach are considered Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). One of the goals of NCLB is to have 100% HQT in every school. The council inquired about the status reports submitted by the school districts and what to do if a teacher does not qualify for HQT.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan provided CSPAC with a summary of meetings he has attended since the October 2008 CSPAC meeting. The Class 3 portion of Chapter 57 was discussed; Chapter 57 will have its hearing on February 24, 2009. He also spoke about the meeting he and Mr. Meloy had with the Legislative Audit Division concerning dual enrollment and the upcoming audit. The proposed language approved at the October 2008 meeting was stricken from the CSPAC Bylaws due to incorrect information. The Council then approved language extending term limits as elected officials on the Council from two years to six.

Western States Certification Conference Report

Dr. Reisig displayed his PowerPoint that he presented a week prior at the Western States Certification Conference in Austin, TX. The PowerPoint concentrated on offering a fair and equal opportunity to students from all economic backgrounds. Ms. Keller and Ms. Graham spoke about their experiences at the conference.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about his appearance before the House and Senate Education Committee on January 14, 2009 to speak about the Board of Public Education. He spoke about bills currently being presented before House and Senate committees that, if passed, would directly affect BPE. These included SJ 8, SB 80, SB 81, and SB 67.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the MSU-Billings College of Education Consortium. At the Consortium, David Langford presented the *Quality Learning System*. This is a management theory that deals with classroom organization and getting students more involved in classroom development. Dr. Fishbaugh expressed interest in having CSPAC study his work further.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Keller, Dr. Peterson, and Mr. Donovan spoke to the Council about Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary Faculty License Application process.

OPI Update

Dr. Peterson spoke about the recent transition to Ms. Denise Juneau, the current Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state. Mr. Dennis Parman was chosen and Deputy Superintendent and will take office in July. Until then, Mr. Bob Runkle will be the acting Deputy Superintendent. She listed a

few issues OPI is working on including special ed teacher shortages in high school, and class 5 alternative teacher licensing tests.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Burreson and Ms. Woodhouse passed out a survey they would like to distribute to schools that have participated in the Montana Mentoring Institute sponsored by OPI to gather information on how schools are implementing teacher mentoring programs. Ms. Sandve offered to work with the committee to distribute the surveys and requested she add a few questions of her own to help with a grant she is working at attaining. Ms. Sandve also spoke about how instead of the Mentor Institute, a mentor training program will be offered this summer in Helena. The Council approved a motion to recommend to the BPE the addition of teacher mentoring to Areas of Permissive Special Competency, ARM 10.58.527(7).

Future Agenda Items

The future agenda items, including planning for the joint Board of Public Education meeting, were reviewed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Highlights of the March 11, 2009 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on March 11-12, 2009 at the Front Street Learning Center in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

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Meeting attendees included: Ms. Tracy Grazley, U of M Western; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Mandy Smoker Broadus, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI.

Executive Committee

Dr. Reisig informed the Council that the Board of Public Education is now an Educator License Renewal Unit Provider. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council Annual Report to be presented at the Joint CSPAC/BPE meeting and agreed to present the report as is. The highlights from the January Interpreters' Standards Workgroup meeting were provided. Finally, Dr. Reisig presented a PowerPoint to honor Ms. Burreson.

Indian Education Report

Ms. Smoker Broadus came to the Council to speak about American Indian student achievement in Montana, and ways OPI is working to improve the achievements of American Indian. OPI conducted a study to gather information on American Indian Education in Montana. Ms. Broadus presented various result from the study, including information on enrollment, Adequate Yearly Progress Report, and Reading First data among other things. She also gave an overview of the programs being implemented in schools to aid with American Indian student achievement such as Indian Leadership Education and Development.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan handed out a list of the meetings he had attended since the January CSPAC meeting and briefly spoke about a few. He presented the executive summary of the study *An Evaluation of Teachers Trained Through Different Routes to Certification*. The Council then discussed alternative routes to certification and the results of the study.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh was absent from the meeting. Ms. Bloom informed the Council the committee was ongoing in their analysis.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Woodhouse led the Council through the language that would be presented at the following days CSPAC/BPE meeting as an information item for the Board. Ms. Sandve presented the updated version of the survey developed by Ms. Burreson, Ms. Woodhouse, and herself. Dr. Reisig requested Ms. Sandve come before the Council at the July meeting to present the results of the survey.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Keller informed the Council that Item 8, the OPI Update, would be presented at the OPI Licensure Office following the close of the meeting. The Chapter 57 rules would be presented for final approval at the BPE meeting on Friday, March 13th. The only issue still concerning people about the rule concerns superintendents and the time they should be given to attain credits in Montana School Law and Finance.

Plan for Future Conferences

Mr. Donovan addressed the Council about BPE's financial strains and the cut back on out-of-state trips the Board must make. The Council understood and told Mr. Donovan if it was possible, they would still like him to attend the NASDTEC Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled from May 31st – June 3, 2009, in Jacksonville, FL.

Future Agenda Items

A new Council member will be selected by the Board at their May meeting and will be in attendance at the July 2009 CSPAC meeting. Ms. Woodhouse's first three year term will expire in June. The annual calendar and new goals will be written at the July meeting as well.

Public Comment

Ms. Keller gave a brief overview of the previous day's Class 8 Application Approval meeting for those Council members who could not attend.

OPI Update

Ms. Keller presented a PowerPoint entitled, “Why the Licensure Office is so Cranky”. The PowerPoint described the duties the Licensure Office of OPI must deal with on a daily basis.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Mr. Meloy gave a brief overview of the bills of interest to the Board including:

- HB 15 – Fund K-12 Education
- HB 645 – Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and recovery funds
- SB 80 & 81 – Elect Board of Regents and Board of Public Education members
- SB 67 – Require funding before school rules with fiscal impact implemented

Highlights of the July 23, 2009 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on July 23, 2009 at the MEA-MFT Conference Room in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, Helena.

Meeting attendees included: Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Mr. Mike Miller, U of M Western; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Deena Miller, Write/Right 2 Read Program; Mr. Dan Villa, Governor’s Office.

Executive Committee

The meeting began with the election of officers. Dr. Reisig was reappointed as Chairman. Ms. Judie Woodhouse was appointed as Vice Chairwoman. Committee appointments followed. Ms. Patty Muir was moved to the Montana Commission on Teaching Committee. Mr. Jon Runnalls took the open spot on the Licensure and Endorsement Committee. All other Council members remained on the committee they previously served. The annual calendar was then set followed by the goals for the 2009-2010 year. The Council requested someone from OPI to speak to them about the P-20 efforts. On the 22nd of July the Council reviewed a new batch of applications for the Class 8 Educator License. Ms. Keller came to speak about the proposed language to modify the Class 8 to allow for educators whose area study does not tie into any existing academic areas in the K-12 environment the opportunity to be licensed. The Council voted to approve the intent to adjust the Class 8 Dual Credit Only Post Secondary Faculty License. The Sign Language Interpreter Standards were adopted for notice of public hearing at the Board of Public Education meeting on July 17, 2009. A hearing date of September 3, 2009 has been set.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy gave an overview of the work BPE had accomplished since the joint BPE/CSPAC meeting in March. Some of the topics he covered included: the development of the Montana Virtual Academy, including the selection process of the Governing Board; and the proposed National Standards Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan covered the meetings he has attended since the last CSPAC meeting. He spoke about the NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute, and Ms. Keller's appointment as chair of the Interstate Agreement Committee. The Council also discussed the shortage of instructors of Braille and sign language interpreters in the state and the possibility of looking into how we can lessen the shortage.

Introduction of Dan Villa, Governor's Education Policy Advisor

Mr. Villa came to speak to the Council as the newly appointed Education Policy Advisor to Governor Schweitzer. Mr. Villa spoke to the Council about various issues including the Montana University System's request for a tuition increase, the debate around the necessity of NCATE as an accrediting body to the state teacher preparation programs, and "Turn Around Schools".

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee

Ms. Woodhouse spoke about Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI, and her work on the mentoring survey. The surveys will be distributed at the beginning of the school year in August. Mr. Reisig inquired about the Board's stance on the proposed sign language interpreter standards. The Board supports them but there is some concern about how available the resources to become certified will be to people across the state.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Ms. Deena Miller from the Write/Right 2 Read Program came to speak about the program and her desire to develop a professional certification/endorsement through the series of classes. The program currently consists of workshops that aim to make more sense of the English language. The Council, as well as members of the audience, offered Ms. Miller many suggestions as to how and who she should talk to for looking into developing this program at the collegiate level.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Elizabeth Keller came to give an update on the Chapter 57 revisions. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the Montana Virtual Academy. Mr. Ferro stepped forward to talk about the recent developments, the financial setbacks, and the history of the Academy and MSEL.

OPI Update

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI came before the Council to explain the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The standards are being proposed for math and language arts, at this point 46 states have agreed to participate in the development. Discussion ensued over the development process and the concerns people have for the Initiative.

Plan for Future Conferences

The NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute will be taking place October 14-16, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM. The Western States Certification Conference is January 6-8, 2010 in San Diego, CA. Dr. Reisig plans on attending this conference.

Future Agenda Items

The Council will review its by-laws and meet with the Montana Council of Deans of Education at its October 8-9, 2009 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Highlights of the October 8 & 9, 2009 CSPAC and Joint Council of Deans Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on October 8-9, 2009, at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. On the afternoon of October 8, 2009, the CSPAC met jointly with the Montana Council of Deans of Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Mr. Jon Runnalls, Teacher, East Helena; Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Larry Baker, MSU-Bozeman; Dr. Lynette Zuroff, Carroll College; Dr. Roberta Evans, UM-Missoula; Ms. Cindy Dell, Salish Kootenai College; Ms. Joanne Erickson, MSU-Bozeman; Ms. Tricia Parrish, UM-Missoula; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Jan Clinard, OCHE; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Dr. Delena Norris-Tull, UM-Western; Ms. Kristy Murphy, UM-Missoula; Ms. Pamela Wilson, MSU-Northern; Ms. Lynn Hinch, OPI; Ms. Michael Munson-Lenz, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

Joint CSPAC/Council of Deans Meeting

October 8, 2009

Dr. Reisig updated the Council of Deans on the projects CSPAC have completed, as well as those they are either planning on, or would like to work on in the near future. Other topics discussed included the following: An update of the proposed changes concerning the Class 8 Professional Educator Licensure to Chapter 57 of the administrative Rules of Montana; a School Staffing Module update; changes being made to the Higher Education Opportunity Act Title II State Report Card; a follow-up to the NCATE Western Regional Accreditation Orientation; the proposed draft of the Highly Qualified Teacher's Plan; and an update on the Accreditation On-Site Review Schedule. Finally Ms. Lynn Hinch and Ms. Michael Munson-Lenz spoke before the Councils about what the Indian Education for All division at OPI had done with the development and implementation of the Building Worldviews using Traditional Cultures & Google Earth in public schools across the state.

CSPAC Meeting October 9, 2009

Executive Committee

Dr. Douglas Reisig recapped the Joint CSPAC and Council of Deans meeting. Dr. Reisig then conducted the annual review of the CSPAC bylaws.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan provided CSPAC with a summary of meetings he has attended since the July CSPAC meeting and with an update on his activities with NASDTEC. Mr. Steve Meloy spoke briefly on the Montana Virtual Academy Governing Board and the members selected by the Board. Mr. Donovan provided the rule as adopted for Sign Language Interpreters in public schools.

Board of Public Education Report

Mr. Steve Meloy spoke to the Council about the Common Core Standards and Race to the Top funds. The comment period for the public to voice their opinion directly to the Council for Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association closes October 21, 2009. He finished by mentioning the question of privacy in a teacher licensure revocation, surrender, or denial case, as well as the current budget situation faced by the BPE office.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh spoke about MSU-Billings' preparation for Joint NCATE/State Accreditation Review and her trip to Las Vegas with OPI for NCATE training. She will be a part of the MSU-Northern review in November. The next Post-Secondary Consortium will take place in November and should be attended by Ms. Tonia Bloom.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Judie Woodhouse turned the floor over to Ms. Nikki Sandvi who came from OPI to provide the Mentoring Update. Ms. Sandve spoke about the recent Train the Teacher Mentor Institute, the second mentor survey emailed to schools across the state, and past and future Mentor Institutes.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Mr. Donovan informed the Council the changes to Chapter 57 concerning Class 8 will go up before the Board for approval at its November. Those applicants who were put on hold for a Class 8 license will be reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval should the Class 8 rules be adopted. Ms. Elizabeth Keller spoke next about the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to provide a mechanism to inform the Membership and the public of jurisdiction-specific requirements for educator licensure in each Member Jurisdiction.

Presentation of the Confucius Institute of the University of Montana

The Honorable Bob Brown came before the Council to speak about his journey to and involvement in the Institute, located inside the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana-Missoula. He also discussed the professor's involved in the program that work to teach Mandarin Chinese via the internet to school children across the state.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Item six was returned to as the last portion had not been covered. Mr. Donovan spoke about the possibility of creating areas of permissive specialized competency for instructors of Braille and sign language interpreters.

OPI Update

Dr. Linda Peterson showed the Council exactly where on the OPI website, opi.mt.gov, to go for reporting HQT. Dr. Peterson also showed and spoke about information for Housse.

Plan for Future Conferences

Due to financial constraints, future conference attendance has been put on hold.

Future Agenda Items

The Council will draft the CSPAC Annual Report and review the Code of Ethics at its January 14, 2010 meeting in Helena.

OPI Strategic Directions and P-20 Update

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne was unable to attend the meeting due to treacherous road conditions between Helena and Missoula.

Public Comment

Dr. Reisig thanked Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman. Dr. Jan Clinard and Mr. Marco Ferro expressed thanks to the Council for a delightful meeting.

Highlights of the January 14, 2010 CSPAC Meeting

The Montana Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) met on January 14, 2010 at the Montana State Capitol in Helena, MT. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

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Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Ms. Joyce Silverthorne, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

Correspondence

Mr. Donovan presented the Council with an article discussing the newly created Montana Virtual Academy and the hiring of its new director, Mr. Robert Currie. A lengthy discussion ensued over what the qualifications of the instructor should be, where the student will be receiving instruction (at a public school, in their own home etc.), and how to assure the student is really the one taking the course,

amongst other questions. The Council requested someone from the Office of Public Instruction come speak to them more about the MTVA at its March meeting. The Council then spoke about the American Federation of Teachers', a 1.4 million-member union, proposal to tie student test scores to teacher evaluations. This would possibly be tied into Race to the Top funds being distributed by the federal government to public schools who are adhering to common core standards the government has developed. Discussion ensued over the evaluations and the Council requested someone from OPI come speak to them at a future meeting about the Common Core Standards.

Executive Committee

Dr. Reisig suggested that when drafting the 2009 CSPAC Annual Report the Council align their long term goals with the Board of Public Education's 2008-2013 Mission Statement. A few of the short term goals were discussed and it was decided these would be reviewed again at the March 10, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan informed the Council of the change with the Board's schedule. With the change the joint meeting of CSPAC and BPE is being moved from March 11, 2010 to the week of July 12-16, 2010.

Administrative Officer's Report

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he had attended since the October 2009 CSPAC meeting. One meeting he spoke about was the School Staffing Project. This project is working on a database that will provide OPI with information about educators teaching in schools across the state in a straightforward, condensed style. Mr. Donovan also spoke about the move from paper agendas to electronic agendas.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI came to give the Mentoring Update. Ms. Sandve passed out the results of the 2009 survey sent to schools across the state asking questions about the mentoring programs. Ms. Sandve pointed out some of the trends and spoke about some of the steps she would like to take to possibly make programs institutionalized.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about Mr. Storrs Bishop retiring from the Board after 16 years of service. Mr. Meloy also spoke about the Montana Virtual Academy and if home school enrollment in online courses will affect high school's sports eligibility. Mr. Meloy discussed other topics the Board is dealing with at the moment including SB 152, NASBE, Common Core Standards, and the agency's budget.

OPI Strategic Direction and P-20 Update

Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI came to speak to the Council about OPI's Strategic Direction and P-20. Ms. Silverthorne has begun work with other employees of OPI from various departments to help improve schools from pre-school through post graduate education. Their first priority is to focus on the entry to and exit from K-12 education. After the first year's focus of entry and exit, "...the P-20 Achievement will continue to focus on the topics that improve OPI collaboration across Montana and reduce barriers for the students of Montana."

OPI Update

Dr. Linda Peterson spoke about various projects currently being worked on at OPI. One major project in Dr. Peterson's department is counseling where an initiative between the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Higher Education, and BPE has been created to help create a comprehensive counseling program in Montana schools. Dr. Peterson also spoke about the Board approval to begin the review process of Chapter 55.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Both Dr. Reisig and Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI attended the Western States Certification Conference in San Diego, CA at the beginng of January. Dr. Reisig made a presentation about teaching practices, and Ms. Keller presented as head of the Interstate Agreement Committee.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh passed out information about sign language interpreter training programs as well as an example of a program curriculum. The Council spoke about the need and the possible setting (i.e. university, community college, technical) for one of these programs in the state.

Future Agenda Items

Since the joint BPE meeting has been postponed until July, the Council will draft up the Annual Report at the March meeting.

Western States Certification Conference Report

Dr. Reisig presented the PowerPoint he presented a week prior at the WSCC in San Diego, CA. The presentation was entitled "Accountability: Personal & Professional". The presentation spoke about the way educators view their pupils and how effective communication can have a positive impact on a child's education.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Highlights of the March 10, 2010 **CSPAC Meeting**

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Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, OPI; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Dr. Bruce Messenger, MTVA; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, BPE; Mr. Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer, CSPAC; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, Administrative Assistant, CSPAC.

Correspondence

Mr. Donovan discussed a couple documents including an announcement for the ETS Praxis Client Conference, a letter from the Office Public Instruction inviting CSPAC to nominate a member for the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force (Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC), an article Ms. Bloom sent out from the New York Times entitled Building a Better Teacher, and an article from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind discussing the newly adopted Sign Language Interpreter Standards.

Executive Committee

The CSPAC By-laws were reviewed. Ms. Woodhouse asked about the term limits. The Council then reviewed the 2008 Annual Report to prepare for the 2009 Annual Report. Dr. Fishbaugh asked the term “higher education” be changed to “post-secondary education”. The Short Term Goals were then reviewed. Dr. Reisig presented 18 items of potential discussion and it was decided the goals would be reviewed again at the July 2010 meeting. Dr. Reisig then gave a brief and concise summary of the meeting he, Mr. Donovan, and Mr. Meloy attended the day prior at the Montana High School Association.

Administrative Officer’s Report

Mr. Donovan spoke about the meetings he has attended since the January 14, 2010 CSPAC meeting. Mr. Donovan also mentioned a recent radio advertisement from the Helena Education Foundation praising Council member Mr. Runnalls for his work as a local educator. Mr. Donovan also stated Dr. Reisig was selected as the keynote speaker at the next NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute Conference, the title of this year’s conference is “Doing More with Less”. Mr. Donovan also spoke about work he has done with the Council of Deans, Board of Regents, and OPI. He has played an active role in the OPI School Staffing Project.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Mr. Meloy spoke about various meetings he has attended since January including a NASBE trip to Las Vegas to discuss the federal Common Core Standards. Mr. Meloy traveled with Board Chair Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI. Mr. Meloy spoke about the standards and the concerns many in Montana have about them. Mr. Meloy then spoke about other projects he and the Board are involved in including the K-College Workgroups work with school counselor, the Montana Virtual (Digital) Academy, and the Montana University System Writing Assessment.

Professional Preparation and Continuing Education Committee Report

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the Council of Deans of Education presentation made to the Board of Regents about which each of the 9 teacher preparation programs in the state has to offer, an international educator forum in Ireland where she plans to speak about Indian Ed for All, and a speech made by the Secretary of Department of Education Mr. Arne Duncan at an American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education conference where he blasted teacher preparation programs based on what he had seen in large urban schools.

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee Report

Ms. Woodhouse reported she has been working with other states to attain model language for mentor standards. Ms. Muir will conduct a mentor workshop in Sydney, MT where they have 14 mentors for the upcoming school year. Dr. Fishbaugh added she has been in contact with Ms. Nikki Sandve from OPI and Dr. Jayne Downey from MSU Bozeman about mentor courses they would like to add to universities across the state to help prepare people for an Area of Permissive Specialized Competency for Mentor Teachers.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee Report

Ms. Elizabeth Keller from OPI presented to the Council an overview of academic denials and applicants from other states with academic deficiencies for licensure. The OPI has denied 74 license applications since 2004. Many of these denials are a result of the individual either not completing an NCATE accredited program, or they went through a non NCATE accredited program that provided them a license in their respective states. Montana does not grant licenses to those who do not complete a program either accredited by NCATE or their state.

OPI Update

Mr. Parman stood in for Dr. Peterson to present the OPI Update. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan from OPI completed the 2009 Critical Teacher Shortage Report which revealed music teachers are the second most severe in shortages. To help increase the number of music teachers, both Mr. Parman and Dr. Peterson are looking at ways to amend the requirements. Ms. Joyce Silverthorne from OPI continues her work with P-20. The OPI has become very involved with both Facebook and iTunes University in hopes of reaching out to those who wouldn't necessarily visit their website. Chapter 55 work begins soon. Ms. Applegate will represent CSPAC as a K-8 school teacher.

Plan for Future Conferences

The NASDTEC Annual Conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN. Due to current fiscal situations, Mr. Donovan is unsure whether he'll be able to attend the conference.

Future Agenda Items

Ms. Warhank restated that the July meeting dates have been moved to July 14-15, 2010. The Joint BPE meeting will take place on the morning of July 15, 2010.

Montana Virtual Academy Overview

Dr. Bruce Messenger, Helena School District Superintendent and chair to the Montana Digital Academy, came before the Council to speak after the Council raised a number of questions about the Academy at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Dr. Messenger stated that due to the fact an outside party had previously purchased the rights to the domain name Montana Virtual Academy, the group was forced to rename itself the Montana Digital Academy. Dr. Messenger spoke about MTDA's creation, the hiring of Robert Curry as its director, the planned launch date of online course delivery, and the number of courses amongst other facts. The Council had a few questions for Dr. Messenger including if students need to be on campus to take the courses, if MTDA need to provide the Legislature with benchmarks to show the progress the Academy is making, and who will grant the credit to the student.

Common Core Standards Overview

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith from OPI came to speak to the Council about the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. The Council requested more information about Common Core at their January 14, 2010 meeting. Ms. Coopersmith spoke about the regional NASBE conference she attended with Mr. Meloy and Ms. Myers, as well as Montana's response to the February 9, 2010 draft of K-12 standards. The OPI is following the draft national standards very closely to see how similar they are to current Montana standards. Between now and April 2, 2010, the public can view draft standards online and make comment. The Council asked a few questions about these and possible standards development in other school subjects, they also questioned federal funding, Race to the Top, and teacher prep costs.

Point of Personal Privilege

Ms. Woodhouse made a special presentation to honor two Council members whose second terms both end this June. Ms. Woodhouse presented Ms. Bloom with an oversized thank you card filled with pictures of Council members, BPE staff, and other education partners the Council works with. Mr. Donovan prepared a poem for her entitled *They Do it for Free* and read it to everyone. Ms. Woodhouse then presented a PowerPoint she prepared for Dr. Reisig with the help of Mr. Donovan who once again composed and read out loud a poem entitled *When Nice Guys Finish in First Place*. Both Ms. Bloom and Dr. Reisig thanked everyone they worked with over the years while serving on the Council. Both individuals also received gifts from the Board as a token of its appreciation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.